THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 21ST OCTOBER.

THE LAST ANNUAL REPORT of the Surgeon-General of Bengal on the Medical Institutions of Calcutta has the following startling paragraph :

"In reference to cholera as affecting the shipping, I have to repeat what has been pointed out, that the sewage of about 2,500 natives stationed in the Fort is still discharged into the river, and that sailors on ships moored near to the place of this discharge, are still most liable to be attacked with the disease. Dr. Raye's report shows that there were 16 cases from the Esplanade moorings and six from the jetty, or together 22 above Fort Point; whilst the cases admitted from below Fort Point were 43, or 16 from Prinsep's Ghat, 16 from Hastings, three from Kidderpore, three from Garden Reach, three from Baboo Ghat, and two from Fort Point. Unfortunately we have no information as to the relative number of ships or of sailors at the different moorings, though the above enumeration shows that most of the cases occurred nearest to where the foul drainage entered the river. It seems almost incredible that a practice which is universally condemned in cooler climates should have been allowed to exist so long in a climate such as that of Calcutta. That it must prove hurtful there can be no doubt, and that the deposit left on the banks at low water is liable to give rise to diarrhœa, dysentery, typhoid fever, and cholera, seems to me to be exceedingly probable, notwithstanding that no offensive odour is discernible.

And the Government alone is responsible for this scandalous state of things. How is the Army Sanitary Commission silent about it?

WE GIVE below the cost of diet in the several medical institutions of Calcutta :

Calcutta Medical Institutions.	Europeans. Rs.	A.	P.	Natives. Rs.	A.	P.
Medical College Hospital.....	0	8	0	0	4	11
Presidency General Hospital	0	10	1	0	4	3
Mayo Hospital and Dispensaries.....	0	0	0	0	2	8
Campbell Hospital	0	0	0	0	3	6
Municipal Police Hospital.....	0	0	0	0	3	1
North Suburban ditto	0	0	0	0	1	9
Alipore Dispensary.....	0	0	0	0	2	1
Howrah General Hospital.....	0	9	5	0	1	11

The cause of this difference is under investigation by a Committee.

IN HIS ARTICLE in the *North America Review* Mr. Gladstone makes the following remarks on the British Constitution :

"The Cabinet, and all the present relations of the constitutional powers in this country, have grown into their present dimensions and settled into their present places not as the fruit of a philosophy, not in the effort to give effect to an abstract principle; but by the silent action of forces, invisible and insensible the structure has come up into the view of all the world. It is, perhaps, the most conspicuous object on the wide political horizon; but it has thus risen, without noise, like the Temple of Jerusalem.

"No workman steel, on ponderous hammers rung;
Like some tall palm the stately fabric sprung."

When men repeat the proverb which teaches us that "marriages are made in Heaven," what they mean is that, in the most fundamental of all social operations, the building up of the family the issues involved in the nuptial contract lie beyond the best exercise of human thought, and the unseen forces of providential government make good the defect in our imperfect capacity. Even so would it seem to have been in that curious marriage of competing influences and powers which brings about the composite harmony of the British Constitution. More it must be admitted, than any other, it leaves open doors with lead into blind alleys; for it presumes, more boldly than any other, the good sense and good faith of those who work it. If unhappily these personages meet together on the great arena of a nation's fortunes, as jockeys meet upon a racecourse, each to urge to the uttermost, as against the others, the power of the animal he rides, or as counsel in a court, each to procure the victory of his client without respect to any other interest or right—then this boasted Constitution of ours is neither more nor less than a heap of absurdities. The undoubted competency of each reaches even to the paralysis or distraction of the rest. The House of Commons is entitled to refuse every shilling of the supplies. That House, and also the House of Lords, is entitled to refuse its assent to every Bill presented to it. The Crown is entitled to make a thousand peers to-day and as many to-morrow; it may dissolve all and every Parliament before it proceeds to business; may pardon the most atrocious crimes; may declare war against all the world; may conclude treaties involving unlimited responsibilities, and even vast expenditure, without the consent, nay, without the knowledge of Parliament, and this not merely in support or in development, but in reversal, of policy already known to and sanctioned by the nation. But the assertion is that the depositaries of power will all respect one another; will evince a consciousness that they are working in a common interest for a common end; that they will be possessed together with not less than an average intelligence of not less than an average sense of equity and of the public interests and rights. When these remarkable expectations fail, then, it must be admitted British Constitution will be in danger."

THE LUCKNOW WITNESS has the following :

"Lucknow was visited with a cloud of locusts Saturday night, the 12th instant. The crops are too near harvest to be materially injured by them so far as grain is concerned, but fodder may suffer. The *Times* says, vast quantities of these locusts have found their way to the tables of Europeans under the guise of shrimps and prawns. Why disguise them? A locust is as inviting in appearance as a shrimp or prawn and one who is not afraid to eat the one should not strain at the other."

Locusts and honey were the food of the ancient Jews.

PROFESSOR SUMNER of Yale College has been discoursing on the "hard times" in America. He says the mechanical inventions of the century have revolutionized all industries; old stock and machinery is made worthless; the American war made the nation poorer by the amount of its waste, but the pressure of poverty has been staved off until now; inflated currency has drawn population to the cities from which it needs to be redistributed. The professor has no cure to propose. Government is helpless in the matter. The present suffering is inevitable penalty the human race must pay for the improvements it makes. Each man must go on trying one thing after another until he betters his condition."

DR. THOMPSON, now resident at Berlin, says that the newly elected German Parliament represents fifteen distinct parties or shades of parties, but they may be brought down to three or four groups. The National Liberal is the extreme on one hand, the German Imperialist the other.

PROFESSOR SCHROELDER, the successful balloonist, says, that at a certain height above a body of water a perfect view of the bottom can be obtained, the water, serving as a refractor to make it visible. He claims that he can hold his new flying machine still enough to photograph the sub-aqueous landscape for the benefit of the coast survey.

TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER.

THE INSCRIPTIONS ON CLEOPATRAS NEEDLE—Dr. Birch of the British Museum, has translated the various hieroglyphic inscriptions on Cleopatra's Needle, which is about to be set in position on the Thames embankment. They are of considerable length and recite : "The Horus, lord of the upper and lower country, the powerful bull, crowned in Thebes, has erected this monument to his father, Haremachu, son of the San Thothmes." The scenes on the pyramidion represent the monarch Thothmes III, under the form of a sphinx, offering gifts to the gods Ra and Atum, the two principal deities of Heliopolis. The offerings are water, wine, milk and incense. The inscriptions are the names and titles of the deities, the titles of Thothmes, III., and the announcement of each of his special gifts.

AN AMERICAN PAPER thus liberally scatters P.s in a short paragraph :

"Persons who patronise papers should pay promptly, for the pecuniary prospects of the Press have peculiar power in pushing forward public property. If the printer is paid promptly and his pocket book kept plethoric by prompt paying patrons, he puts his pen to paper in peace; he paints his pictures of passing events in more pleasant colours, and the perusal of his paper is of more pleasure to his people. Paste this piece of proverbial philosophy in some place where all persons can perceive it. Be pleased also to ponder upon it thyself patiently and perseveringly and profitably, and persistently practice its precepts perpetually.

WE OBSERVE that the Julsa Tahjib of Lucknow has as a mark of their appreciation of the services of the late Mr. Charles Currie, Judicial Commissioner, presented an address of condolence to Captain Fendal Currie on the death of his brother.

A RESOLUTION by the Chief Commissioner of British Burma on the working of the scheme for introducing laborers from the Madras Presidency into British Burmah gives information as to the reasons of the failure of that scheme and consequent closing of the Coconada Depot. It appears that in 1877 and the beginning of 1878 some six or seven hundred emigrants, men women and children sailed for Burma under contract with the Government to obtain wages at certain rates. But it was found that the amount of regular employ open was insufficient and that by the contract the Government was bound to pay wages, whether employment was found or not. The labor law appears to have been introduced in the belief that there were large employers of labor in British Burma, who would gladly avail themselves of the services of the coolies in the depot, and who might induce the immigrant families to settle down on farms in the country. As a matter of fact, however, such employers exist almost exclusively in the sea-port towns, and their wants are readily supplied from Madras (or from Chittagong in the case of Akyab) without the necessity for any interference on the part of Government. The Chief Commissioner points out that a labor law may be required and may work well under two conditions; (1) when labor cannot be had by voluntary contract, except at great cost and with great difficulty; or (2) when, from local circumstances, special precautions are needed for the protection of immigrants. Neither of these conditions exist in British Burma at present. The true want of Burma is a settled agricultural population of Burmans or Shans to cultivate the extensive tracts of waste land in the interior. The Chief Commissioner has directed that the depot at Coconada should be closed and his action has received the approval of the Government of India. Endeavour is being made to find employment for the coolies now in Rangoon on the Railway, in the Public Works Department, or on municipal works.

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Government of India the Secretary of State has sanctioned a grant of 100 Rs. per mensem to the widow of Pundit Manphul C. S. I. in consideration of the special services rendered by him to the Government with the remark that this grant is not to form a precedent.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has sanctioned the deputation of Captain J. Waterhouse (who is on short leave in England) to Europe for one month for the purpose of inspecting the recent improvements in the art of photography as applied to the reproduction of maps in Paris and Vienna.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has sanctioned the temporary appointment of an Acting Additional Judge at Nuddea for the purpose of disposing of an accumulation of cases which has arisen under the Land Acquisition Act.

INTELLIGENCE has been received of the death of Feroz Shah, son of the Ex-king of Delhi, at Mecca on the 17th December 1877. In 1858 and the beginning of 1859 he took an active part against the British, first in the N. W. P. and afterwards in Central India. He was known to have come in collision with Sir R. Napier and to have been defeated by Gen Whitelock. In 1860 he was heard of in Kandahar on his way to Persia. In 1861 he was in Bokhara and at the end of 1862 turned up at Tehran, where he remained some time. In 1863 enquiry was made from Persia whether the British Government would give any reward for his apprehension. He was next heard of in Heart and in 1868 he was Swat and afterwards at Kabul. The Amir sent him off to Badakshan and he was subsequently reported to have been seen at Samarkhand. In 1872 he went to Constantinople and Egypt, where he called himself Sultan Ibrahim. From that time he resided at Mecca, being known as Hazi Firozbin Sultan Mirza Bakht. He died in a state of penury being almost entirely dependent on an allowance made him by the High Sheriff of Mecca. The only relation left by him at Mecca is a wife.

DISTURBANCES in Seistan continue. The Persians are marching troops in that direction.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER.

A LONDON CORRESPONDENTS writes: "Lord Cranbrook—late Mr. Gathorne Hardy—is carrying his zeal for reform into Indian matters. It is said he is going to reduce the expenditure on the higher offices in that country. At present he thinks a great deal of money is paid for very little work, and as there has been no readjustment for many years, he intends to add the Indian Office to the War Office as the scene of retrenchment. Immediately the report of the committee is received from Simla, the changes will commence. But officialism—especially well-paid officialism—is very strong, and I do not anticipate very much from his retrenchments." Them's our sentiments.

RUSSIA has a project of Railway to India. The Russian Ministry of Roads and Ways publishes a proposal on the subject. It suggests that the line should start from Paris to Warsaw, then to Tiflis, and so on to Peshawur and ultimately Calcutta, comprising 8940 versts, or 1277 German miles. This differs somewhat from the project formerly put forward by M. de Lesseps, who proposed that his line, after leaving Warsaw from Paris, should proceed *via* Orenburg to Peshawur and Calcutta. The distance by this scheme would be something like 100

miles longer. The promoters of the new line calculate that the journey from Paris and cost about £40.

IT IS stated that Russia is seriously contemplating a railway from her own possessions in Turkestan to Afghanistan, and that this is one object of the mission of the General Abramoff to Cabul. According to a report from St. Petersburg, the Turkestan railway is to go to Herat "by the course which a Russian army approaching Herat would undoubtedly take."

THERE would seem to be a mania just now for railways in mountainous regions. The question of a line across the Pyrenees from Spain to France is being discussed in the Council General of Pau, the province nearest to the mountains, and it has been decided to attempt the work. Vesuvius in Italy has already been attacked. The concession has been obtained, and people will now be able to ride up to the crater by rail. Locomotives, however, will not be used, but the trains will be drawn by a wire rope, like that formerly in use to draw trains out of the North-Western terminus at Liverpool. With a railway up the Alps in operations, another up Vesuvius, and a third across the Pyrenees, it will be difficult soon to say where the rail will not be carried. Perhaps the turn of the Himalays will come next!

A CLOUD of locusts sixty miles in length, width and height incalculable, have been ravaging the crops in the tract of country through which the Jubbulpore line passes. Much food-grain has been entirely destroyed by a peculiar worm, which is said to eat up the ripening ears. So that the bounteous harvest will not prove so satisfactory as was expected.

THE TOTAL MORTALITY in the North-West and Oudh for the month of August last was 113,701 as compared with 66,000 recorded for the corresponding month of the previous year. The death-rate in some of the distressed districts still continues to be very high.

THE AGRA CORRESPONDENT of the *Indian Tribune* says:

"A complaint was instituted by one Umachurn against Mr. Hagans, Assistant Engineer, Muttra line, and his assistants for illegal confinement, illegal restraint, hurt, mischief by fire, robbery, &c. The case came up before Mr. Aikman, the Officiating Magistrate; the prosecution cited Pundit Kedernath, Deputy Collector, and several other respectable persons as witnesses. Pundit Kedernath was the persons who, it is alleged, saw the prosecutor tied up on a tree, and with marks of violence upon his body. On the date of the first hearing of the case the Magistrate allowed it to be compromised. I am at a loss to understand how such a serious case should have been held to be compoundable.'

Will Sir George Couper take notice of this case?

WE ARE INFORMED that the Amir's reply sent by Nawab Gholam Hossein was unconciliatory and reverse of satisfactory; it consequently makes no change in the present aspect of affairs.

THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER.

THE POLITICAL OFFICER at Quetta received information a few days ago that a considerable number of horses with some men of Kabul had been collected in a village within the Baluchistan frontier about 17 miles from Quetta. As these horses could be used for a "Chapas" or night surprise on Quetta Cantonment, it was considered advisable to reconnoitre the village. This was done by the Political Agent, joined by Col. Browne and Mr. Bruce and attended by a few Brahoe Sirdars. The village was found to be full of horses and there was a large number of men of soldierly appearance and unfriendly demeanour, one or two of whom insulted the Brahoe Sirdars, for bringing Feringhees there. It was consequently determined to make a night movement on the village and that night it was surrounded by troops from Quetta. The village surrendered on the terms of giving up the men who had insulted the Sirdars, and as the people said they were peaceful horse dealers they were told that there could be no harm in assisting them to take their horses down the Bolan pass towards their market Hindustan. Two head-men came into Quetta as hostages for good behaviour. It will be seen that this was not a raid, as has been stated in certain quarters, but simply a precautionery measure taken by the Commandant of a frontier garrison.

HIS HIGHNESS THE KHAN of Khelat has consented with great good will and cordiality to the march of the reinforcements of the Quetta garrison through his territories and is giving every assistance in the way of supplies &c.

THE PRINCIPAL SIKH chiefs of the Punjab, and H. H. the Nawab of Bahawalpur have offered contingents of their troops for service. The offers of those states whose position is most conveniently situated with reference to the scene of operations will probably be accepted.

MAJOR ST. JOHN R. E. has been appointed to special duty in Northern Baluchistan and proceeds to Quetta.

MR. HENVEY has proceeded from Srinagur to Jamu to consult with the Maharaja of Kashmir on the best methods for mitigating the famine and to offer the aid of the British Government.

A CORRESPONDENT thus notices the death of Babu Rajmohun Bose, of Howrah:

I regret exceedingly to inform you that Howrah has recently lost a great public man in the person of Babu Raj Mohun Bose, Zemindar, one of the most respectable inhabitants of this place. The deceased was associated with every public committee for the management of the affairs of this town and was a Municipal Commissioner and an Honorary Magistrate of this place. He devoted his whole time and energy to the duties of these offices and for the able and zealous way in which he discharged these duties, he had received on more than one occasion, the thanks of the local Government and honorable mention used to be made of him in every administration report of the Municipality. Babu Raj Mohun Bose died at the age of 69 on the 27th September last leaving a nephew and 4 sons one of whom holds a gazetted appointment in the Financial Department, and is at present assistant to the Accountant General Bengal. The Magistrate of the district Mr. A. A. Wace has in recognition of the public and useful career of the Babu, addressed a letter of condolence to the eldest representative of the family and intends nominating one of them to the vacant seat on the Municipal Board. Baboo Raj Mohun Bose I may mention was the oldest Municipal Commissioner of this place.

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Government of India the Secretary of State has sanctioned the appointment of an additional Commissioner in the Central Provinces on the pay of a First Grade Deputy Commissioner. No additional expenditure will be incurred, as a saving equal to the amount of the salary attached to the new appointment will be effected by the reduction of the upper Godavery district to the rank of a sub-division.

A CORRESPONDENT relates a story of kidnapping of a female child aged about 9 years, which occurred at Mahesh on the Ustumi puja day, that is on the 3rd instant. What is to be regretted is that although a clue had been found, the woman who had kidnapped the child had been arrested and the place where, she said, the child had been detained was also mentioned by her. But the order of the Magistrate not having been properly attended to, the woman had been sent to the village, a place near Turkessur, under the escort of a thick-head up-country constable, who when resting at night on the way had not taken proper precautions to secure the woman, who fled while the constable was asleep. It is believed the child has been murdered as she had on her person about Rs 250 worth of trinkets. The child belonged to a respectable family of Mahesh.

THERE WERE 319 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 12th October, of which 129 were from fever, 47 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 9 from cholera, 4 from small-pox, 37 from tetanus, 15 from phthisis, 12 from asthma, and the rest from other causes. Eleven children were still-born and 5 persons died of old age. There were 15 deaths amongst non-Asiatics and mixed races, most of which were from fever, phthisis, and dysentery.

FRIDAY, 25TH OCTOBER.

THE LATEST NEWS from Simla is that the affairs on the Frontier are much the same; the Khaibari Tribes are friendly. Headmen from the upper parts are coming in about Quetta, and on the Frontier a friendly feeling is also generally manifested.

MR. E. GEFLOWSKI of London has been commissioned by the London Committee of the Romanath Tagore Memorial, of which Lord Northbrook is Chairman, to execute a marble statue of the late Maharaja. The statue will represent the subject in a sitting posture, and will be placed in the Town Hall of this city. Mr. Geflowski executed the busts of the late Raja Sir Radhakant Bahadur and the late Hon'ble Prosunno Coomar Tagore, both of which have been well done.

THE FANATICAL MAHOMEDAN, who had murdered Captain Pemberton, urged in his defence that he had been offended in his religious feelings by the removal of stones from an abandoned mosque.

IT IS STATED that the Rajas of Puttialah, Jhind, Nabha, Kapurthala and Faridkote, all of the Punjab, have placed their troops at the disposal of the Government of India for active service wherever required. The Nawab of Bhawalpore also has offered troops and the whole supplies of his State. He also volunteers his personal services. We commend these facts to the *Times*, which proposes to disarm the Native Princes.

THE PIONEER says that the language of the Amir's reply to the Viceroy "is polite but it distinctly refuses to admit the Mission on the simple and intelligible ground that the writer does not want to have anything to do with the British Government. Grief for Abdulla Jan's death is also brought in as an additional excuse for the Amir's indisposition to receive an Embassy."

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WE TAKE from the *Englishman* the following telegrams about the movement of Frontier troops:

Peshawar, October 24th.—Owing to sanitary reasons the camp at Hurri Singh will be broken up on Saturday, one half going to Muttra Banna on the Michnee Road, the other half near Fort Bara. The Hazara Mountain Battery will to-morrow relieve the Mountain Battery at Jamrood, the latter will return to Kohat. Two transport officers have arrived; otherwise there are no new preparations.

Multan, October 24th.—The arrangements for General Biddulph's force are approaching completion. Six months' supplies will be forwarded by the end of October. It is difficult to obtain gram and forage owing to the recent famine in the Punjab. It is expected that the advance force will be in a position to make a forward movement, if necessary, by the twentieth of November. The March of the 70th Regiment and General Biddulph is delayed five stages hence by want of water. The road to Quetta is quiet. Preparations to concentrate General Stewart's force at Mithankot are being made, but the site of the brigade is not yet decided. Colonel Sankey is surveying the river fifty miles above Sakkar. Colonel Moore, and Captain Stewart of the Quartermaster General's Department, Colonel Hitchins, Chief Engineer, and Colonel Lane, Chief Commissariat Officer, with the advance force, leave this for Quetta to-day.

Bombay October 24th.—The 70th is delayed for want of water bottles and also owing to being insufficiently clothed. There are grave fears respecting the results of these oversights. Complaints are general respecting the thorough unreadiness displayed at headquarters. A fiasco is only averted by the exertions of individual officers. Gentlemen residing on and well acquainted with the frontier strongly favour Rajanpur Hurrand, Chooriali, Thull, Pischeen route through Chacha defile over all others, as it avoids the Bolan Kutchie plain, where communications are liable to interruption from floods is seventy miles shorter with plenty of water and forage, and a plain practicable for camels. Should these die in the Bolan and the arrangement made for foot carriage fail an alternative pass is absolutely necessary. There are only political objections. These, it is considered might be easily overcome before Stewart's force is ready. This question occupies much attention on the frontier.

THE SAME PAPER in reviewing the last Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipality makes the following remarks on Tank filling:

As to the tank-filling operations of the Health Officer, discussed in the Municipal Report, we go with the Commissioners. It is in the highest degree desirable that all foul tanks should be filled up. But each tank ought to be filled up quickly when once taken in hand, and with harmless materials. To fill up the tanks with filth or to fill them up only partially, is calculated to do more harm than good. We do not even believe in the efficiency of a top dressing of earth over filthy material, in a climate like that of Calcutta with a rainfall of sixty inches and an atmosphere nearly saturated with moisture for five months of the year.

This is the language of common sense, but in the Municipality science overrides common sense.

THE GOVERNMENT of Bombay has fallen a victim to its own folly. It allowed the foreshore of the Western capital to be purchased by certain speculators at the time of Sir Bartle Frere and now it is going to buy it over at a tremendous cost. The following arrangement, it is said, has been agreed to. The total cost of 77 lacs of rupees is to be paid in bonds, bearing 4 per cent. interest, guaranteed by the Bombay provincial finance. A new Port Trust is to be formed, in which the present Trust, the foreshore owners, and the general mercantile community will be represented. The Supreme Government reply that "it is first necessary to pass a Bill through the Local Legislative Council, but it is probable that no objection will be offered to the conclusion of the purchase on the above terms.

SATURDAY, 26TH OCTOBER.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows:

"Do you know what has become of the Grade scheme for school masters? It was sent to the Secretary of State in the beginning of April and came sanctioned in July. The Director of Public Instruction has had clear four month's time in making out his list. But no one even at this moment knows what progress it has made. Is it all a hoax? If so, you are a party to it, since *you* announced it in your paper that it was a *fait accompli*. Have you any idea of the anxiety and uneasiness you have caused among school-masters by that announcement of yours? School-masters, poor men, are really mad about it and if you are no h——g, they hope you will be able to announce soon that it is all ready or candidly confess that you were misled."

We appeal to Mr. Croft to come to our rescue.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF in India is pleased to direct that all officers of British regiments ordered on field service, serving in any extra regimental or staff appointment, who are not seconded, are to proceed and join their corps without delay at the public expense. This means action.

WE REPRODUCE with great pleasure the following remarks of the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the payment of the cost of the Affghan war:

There is a general impression that the cost of the Afghan war is to be borne, or almost completely borne, by India. It is hard to believe that this is or has been even for a moment the intention of the Cabinet. To throw the burden of the Afghan war upon India would be the meanest policy conceivable if it were not also the maddest. It is almost saved from being disreputable by the gravity of the danger incurred in following it. England is a very wealthy country; India is a very poor country. England is very lightly taxed; India is very heavily taxed. England, as Mr. Fawcett has pointed out can raise £12000,000 yearly by a 6d. income tax and hardly feel the burden; India by the same expedient could only raise £1,200,000, and it would be raised at the risk of an insurrection. England is steadily paying off her debt; and the only reason why she does not pay it off more quickly is that her people prefer to spend their money in other ways; India has of late been steadily adding to her debt, and seems likely to go on adding to it, merely to meet what may be called her daily

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expenses. England commands so vast an area of food supply that the price of the necessaries of life scarcely varies from year to year; India is so frequently visited by famine and even now has such an imperfect system of carriage from province to province, that only an effort on the part of the Government—extraordinary in the demand it makes on their resources, but ordinary in the frequency of its recurrence—can prevent millions of her people from dying of starvation. These are the pictures which the two countries severally present; and yet it is rumoured that, having looked at each, the Government propose to treat the Afghan war as a matter of purely Indian concern. The meanness of such a course lies in this—that it would be a distinct evasion by the richer country of a liability which is in the strictest sense her own. This is not a question of helping or not helping India to bear her own burdens; it is a question of forcing her by dint of superior strength to undertake a burden which is not hers. No one pretends that if the Afghan question only concerned Afghanistan, if the only danger to be apprehended were the hostility of a barbarous ruler or the raids of a frontier tribe half-brigands and half-soldiers, it would be necessary to insist upon sending a mission or to provoke such a refusal as that which has now to be dealt with. If there were no Russia standing behind the Ameer he might have been left to sulk until such time as it pleased him to invite the mission which the Indian Government would then have had no special desire to send. The Afghan war has been brought upon India by Imperial policy; it will be waged in pursuance of Imperial requirements, and to ward off an imperial danger; and by every consideration of justice it ought to be paid for out of the Imperial treasury.

We are glad to see that the view we have taken of the liability of India in the Affghan war is shared by some of the influential organs of public opinion in England.

WE ARE GLAD to see it stated that Mr. J. D Bell will be confirmed in the appointment of Standing Counsel in the room of Mr. Pitt-Kennedy. This appointment will give general satisfaction.

IT IS SAID that Sir William Robinson, member of the Madras Council, retires in December next, and that Mr. Carmichael, the Chief Secretary, succeeds him. Mr. Robinson's departure is a calamity for Madras. He is a thorough sympathizer with the natives, and bold and uncompromising in the enunciation of his views.

A SPECIAL telegram from Berlin to the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 4th of October says:

Of the 1,400 millions of roubles which Russia claims from the Porte as war indemnity, it is proposed that payment shall be exacted in money of only 200 millions. The remaining 1,200 millions are to be allowed for as having been paid by the cession of territory. But the Russian Government demands payment in money of the residue, which is made up of two claims of 100 millions each—one on behalf of the Government, the other on behalf of Russian merchants, who have suffered loss by the war. In addition to the above-named indemnity, Russia demands that the Porte shall repay to the Danube Commission half a million of francs expended in removing obstacles from the bed of the river and restoring its navigableness.

WE GIVE the following quotations of the money market from this morning's papers:

GOVERNMENT LOANS.						
4 Per Cent. Promissory Notes	Rs.	94	0	*a*	94	0
4½ Per Cent. of 1870 (1885)	,,	100	0	*a*		
4½ Per Cent. of 1871 (1881)	,,	97	0	*a*	97	8
4½ Per Cent. (Trans.) of 1872 (1879)	,,	94	0	*a*	94	6
4½ Per Cent. of 1878 (1893)	,,	100	0	*a*		
5½ Per Cent. of 1859-60 (1879)	,,	Nominal				
GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES OF 1867.						
6 Per Cent. for 15 years (1882)	Rs.	103	0	*a*	103	4
CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES.						
6 Per Cent. of 1864 (1884)	Rs.	109	0	*a*	109	8
6 Per Cent. of 1865 (1885)	,,	110	0	*a*	110	0
6 Per Cent. of 1866 (1886)	,,	110	8	*a*	111	8
6 Per Cent. of 1867 (1887)	,,	111	0	*a*	111	8
6 Per Cent. of 1870 (1890)	,,	113	0	*a*	113	8
6 Per Cent. of 1872 (1892)	,,	113	8	*a*	114	8
5 Per Cent. of 1878 (1908)	,,	103	8	*a*	104	0

THAKUR KASHI SUNKER SAHOY of Ranchi writes to us to say that it is not the district officer, who has called upon him to repair the house, which he has given for the accommodation of a school, but that "the question has been raised by some one." Who that "some one" is deponent sayeth not.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a letter contradicting certain items of news, which we published from Santipore in our last. As the letter is not authenticated, it does not call for notice.

WE HAVE RECEIVED two letters giving two different versions of a row between Mr. Griffiths, Principal and Dr. Watt, Professor of Physical Science, Hooghly College. As the matter is before Government, we withhold the particulars till the orders of Government are known.

IT IS STATED by a Russian newspaper that complete anarchy continues to prevail in Kashgaria, and that the Chinese troops are busily occupied in quelling perpetual disturbances in Yarkand, Khoten and Uch-Turfan. The Chinese have disseminated a report in Kashgar that 7000 Anglo-Indian troops are in Kashmir ready to enter Kashgarian territory. Several Turks formerly in the service of the Amir of Kashgar have crossed into India for Turkey.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned periodicals and publications: 1. Famine Campaign in Southern India, by W Digby, Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Relief Fund, 2 Vols. 8 vo. 2. Report on the Forest Administration of the Central Provinces for 1877-78. 3. Report on the Administration of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills for 1877-78. 4. Report of the Proceedings of the second Public Meeting in connection with the Vernacular Press Act. 5. The Saddarshanna Chintanika or studies in Indian Philosophy, Vol. 2. No. 8. 6. Letters from America from the Theosophical Society, and Prospectus of the society showing its origin, plan and aims. 7. Parichárika, a monthly Bengali Magazine vol. 1 No. 6

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London 20th October.—In a speech made by Sir Stafford Northcote at Birmingham, yesterday, he said the material point in the policy of the British Government was to preserve Turkey. Government was sanguine of being able to greatly better the Government of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey, thus advancing English interests in the East.

Sir Stafford said England has always respected the objection of the Amir to receive an English Mission, but it was different when Russia was admitted to relations which were denied to England. The nation might rely on being protected from affronts injurious to its honor and prestige in the East. Any measures that may now be taken, will be to preserve the Indian frontier.

25th.—The transport Malabar takes three more extra batteries to India on the 1st November. Consols yesterday closed 94¾.

21st October.—The Directors, Manager, and Secretary of the City of Glasgow Bank have been arrested.

Latest advices state that General Stolitoff was at Tashkend on the 15th September with the Afghan Envoy from Ameer, and that the Minister of the Interior on the 22nd September started for Livada, the Afghan Envoy remaining at Tashkend.

22nd October.—The Sultan has informed the British Ambassador at Constantinople that Turkey will never conclude an alliance with Russia. The Secretary of War and the First Lord of the Admiralty have started for Cyprus.

23rd.—In a second speech by Sir Stafford Northcote (query) at Birmingham, he laid great stress upon the lofty motives and aims in the policy of Government, whose constant endeavours, he said, were to repress and limit any power which was dangerous to the peace and freedom of Europe. In a third speech, Sir Stafford said that Europe was not safe from a reversal (?) of war because of the difficulty in executing treaty of peace.

24.—A Cabinet Council has been summoned for the 26th instant. Several members of the Russian Embassy are still at Cabul awaiting instructions. The *Golos* says that if England, instead of obtaining mere redress from the Ameer, should seek to establish herself at Cabul, Russia will vigorously interfere. James Morton and Company of Glasgow have stopped payment with liabilities, which are chiefly in the City of Glasgow Bank, amounting to 2½ millions sterling.

Constantinople, 22nd October.—The Roumanians have delivered over Bessarabia to the Russians. The Russians are advancing in great number southward of the Balkans.

24th.—An imperial trade has been handed to Sir Austin Layard, granting the reforms demanded by England in the Asiatic Province of Turkey. The Inspector of Finances and Justice and the Commanders of the Gendermary are all to be Europeans. There is an insurrectionary movement in Macedonia and Roumelia, the object of which is to demand union with Bulgaria.

Alexandria. 22nd October.—There has been a rupture in one of the dykes on the Damietta branch of the Nile, resulting in 80,000 acres of land and fifteen villages being submerged.

Berlin, 23rd October.—The police are enforcing the new socialist law in Germany, and have already closed four clubs, and prohibited numerous priuts.

Vienna, 21st October.—In a speech by the President of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, he said it was clear that henceforth Russia and some other Powers were inimical to Austria.

New York 21st October.—The Secretary of the United States Treasury will buy 400,000 ounces of Silver weekly.

St. Petersburgh 24th.—The Russian Press are unanimous in advising that Russia should give indirect and some direct help to the Amir in the coming struggle with England.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1878.

THE FIRST BLUNDER.

A WAR with Kabul has been in the wind for the last two years. It is believed that Lord Lytton came out to this country with a proclamation of war in his pocket. The military occupation of Khelat was a prelude to it. The Pelly mission was the second part of the programme. Its collapse would have probably been followed up with an armed intervention, but for the complexion of affairs in Europe. But the Government of India was in the meantime supposed to be preparing itself for the coming contest. This time last year it was believed that a movement of troops had been arranged, but the complications in Europe prevented the immediate execution of the project. All these preparations, one would think, had been made with a full knowledge of the nature of the country and the character and resources of the enemy. But what do we now find? Russia had despatched a secret Mission to Kabul; our Governor is taken by surprise; it projects a counter-mission, and it deputes it in hot haste. The Amir was in mourning, but our Government would not wait for its termination. A special messenger had been sent by our Government to the Court of the Amir for the ascertainment of his wishes, and our Government would not await his return. The Mission is ordered to proceed, and it is repulsed at its first entrance. The Amir's commandant at the pass tells an officer that if he advances one step, he will do so at the peril of his life, that if he had not been his personal friend he would have shot him down then and there for his audacity to enter do his master's territory without his permission. Our officer pocketed this insult, and the Mission had to return. Such an insult had never yet been offered to our Government since the English planted their flag in the East. One would have thought that such an affront would have been followed with prompt and merited chastisement. But our Mission was not escorted with a sufficient force for an immediate demonstration of that kind. Consequently our Envoy was obliged to measure back his steps. The question is—was not the Government prepared for a rebuff of the kind the Mission received? It knew well that the Afghans were dead opposed to a British Mission to the Court of Kabul. Such a Mission had been proposed at the Pelly conference at Peshwar, but it was indignantly refused. What ground had the Government to suppose that the Mission sent without the consent of the Amir would be welcomed by him? By fitting out the mission the Government was deliberately taking an aggressive measure. Whether such an aggressive measure was expedient or called for is a question, which it is unnecessary for us to consider. The Government having from motives of State policy made up its mind to advance against Kabul was bound to see that what it proposed should be carried out promptly, efficiently and satisfactorily. But the repulse which the Mission met with and its inability to answer it then and there in a fitting style, shew how ill-prepared was our Government to carry out its cherished intention. It had despatched the embassy at a time when nature interposed far greater obstacles in the way of our troops than the people of Kabul. We are glad that the progress of our troops has been countermanded, but where was the necessity for this voluntary display of our weakness? Was there not one in the Council of the Viceroy, who could foresee the difficulties that beset us in proceeding against Kabul at this time? But the tale grows still more sickening as we proceed. The forward party in the Council of the Viceroy wanted to attack Ali Musjid at once, and troops had been ordered to move for that purpose. According to the apologist of the Government of India, the *Pioneer*, Major Cavagnari, is credited with this reckless enterprise. That officer, we are told, conceived that it would be easy to seize the position with a small force, before the Afghans could have made any arrangement to reinforce its garrison. The idea was welcomed by the forward party, but happily better counsel prevailed in our War Office. The Commander-in-Chief was opposed to the move till he was supported with an adequate force; His Excellency also questioned the expediency of the attack at this season of the year. The *Pioneer* admits that "no doubt, it was much to be deplored that the project was ever allowed to go so far as to influence military operations until quite decided on. The hurried movement of troops and their hurried countermand, imparts a look of indecision and of divided counsels to those who are directing our destinies, and tends to shake the confidence of both the army and the public." This disagreement between the civil and military authorities, the *Pioneer* argues, does not mean a friction or jealousy between them. It may or may not be so, but the question is whether the attack on Ali Musjid had been determined upon and the movement of the troops had been ordered without consultation with the Commander-in-chief. The policy of the War certainly rests with the Viceroy in Council, but the military arrangments lie in the jurisdiction of the Commander-in-chief, and are we to believe that this decision in question had been come to without the acquiescence of Sir Frederic Haines? It is not quite clear that if his Excellency had been previously consulted, with what consistency did he then set his face against the plan afterwards?

As facts are now given out, it would seem that the counsels of the Commander-in-chief had in the first instance been ignored. If so there is a division in the council of the Viceroy, which is to be much regreted at this juncture. Well, the attack on Ali Musjid has been abandoned, and the massing of troops on a scale suitable to the occasion has been ordered. So far so good. But in moving the troops one would think that the Government would not take up positions, which would prove plague-spots to our men. And yet what do we read? It is stated that owing to sanitary reasons the camp at Hurry Sing will be broken up, one half going to MuthraBanna and the other to near Fort Bara. Again, the *Englishman* says "owing to the miserable inefficiency of the Commissariat arrangements, we think it very questionable whether, instead of advancing into Kandahar before the winter, we may not have to retire from Quetta. The case stands thus: We dare not keep a small garrison there; we equally dare not keep a large one there without supplies, and there is hardly time left to forward the necessary supplies before the Pass closes. So disgraceful a contretemps may still, perhaps, be averted, but it will be touch and go, unless the winter is unusually late." Now, what does all this indicate? For two years the Government has been making preparations for a war with Kabul, and yet when the hour arrives, it seems to be miserably ill-prepared. So much for the boasted efficiency of our military arrangements. We spend one-third of our revenue upon our Army, but the knowledge, business tact, and wisdom which guide our military movements are such that our men cannot move without facing starvation or fever. What will Europe think of us when she will learn that our troops are paralysed from want of efficient Commissariat arrangements, and without sufficient sanitary foreknowledge, although action has not yet actually commenced. On the other hand consider the moral effects of our over-hasty proceedings. The Khybirese, it is reported, are with us; Sir Nevelle Chamberlain, it is said, promised them support, but the prompt attack on Ali Musjid being abandoned, the Khybirese are left to the mercy of the Amir. It is rumoured that the Amir's men are harassing the Khybirese, and it may be well imagined that unsupported by the British they will not be able to withstand long the attacks from the Amir's troops. The Mohmuds it is stated are well disposed towards us, but if the Khybirese receive no help from us in time, will the other border tribes feel encouraged in joining our flag? All this we fear is due to the hasty action of our Government in despatching the Mission.

Speculation is rife as to whether there will be after all a war with Kabul. As matters now stand, we fear it is inevitable. England cannot pocket the insult which the Amir has offered to her by refusing to receive her Embassy. All Europe is watching with intense interest her movements in Asia. Russia it seems is prepared for the fray. She may not directly engage herself in the war, but she will lend her men and officers to the Amir. She may also lend her gold, though she is not particularly rich in it. On the other hand the Amir is said to have indulged in this brag in open durbar, "I have seven crores of rupees by me, every rupee of which I will hurl at the head of the British Government, and I will roll the border tribes against them like blasts of fire." Whether the Amir has really used those words or not, it would seem that he is just in that mood of mind which would dictate such words. If he continues in this frame of mind, then a war is inevitable. We have received authentic information that the reply of the Amir to the message of the Viceroy is unconciliatory and unsatisfactory. Should all these rumours be correct, then a war we repeat is inevitable. We would regret it much, for no one can say where it will end. The Amir will fight to the last, and if the Russians assist him, it will not be an altogether easy task. We are willing to believe that the resources of our Government will triumph in the end, but that will be only the beginning of the end. Our Government must be prepared to have a military occupation of Kandahar and Herat, and if these two provinces be detached from Kabul, the Amir will be reduced to the position of a petty chieftain. Will Russia consent to the reduction of the Amir to such an insignificance? Our own impression is that if British arms should triumph, there will be a partition of Affghanisthan between England and Russia. We believe such a proposition was seriously proposed by Prince Gortchakoff before Lord Lytton had assumed the reins of the Indian Government. The safety of India lies in such a compact. The neutral zone of Affghansthan has passed into the domain of fiction. It seems to be the decree of Fate that Russia and England should conjointly rule in Asia, and the sooner they come to a mutual understanding the better. Both Russia and England understand each other's resources, and if they wish to progress, and prosper, they should drop mutual jealousies, antipathies and bickerings. It is superfluous for us to add that however the present complications may end the Amir is doomed.

THE DEBATE ON THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT.

THE debate on the Vernacular Press Act, in the Vice-regal Council at Simla, was as might be expected all on one side. There was no room no possibility for difference of opinion. All the members present were officials, and therefore bound to support the Government. The non-officials were excluded, because the Bill was passed at Simla. The arguments advanced in support of the Act were not new. It is, however, edifying to see the official members of an Indian Legislative Council try conclusions with such a gladitator of debate as Mr. Gladstone and other distinguished M.Ps. who had voted against the Act in the House of Commons. Sir Alexander Arbuthnot as the mover of the Bill took the lead, but what did his arguments amount to? He said that the Secretary of State did not, as had been assumed, condemn the Act. We believe Sir Alexander will allow that Dr. Johnson's Dictionary is open to all persons, who understand the English language, and if with the aid of the great lexicon the critics of the Government of India think that Lord Cranbrook has given a very qualified support to the Act, we believe he will admit that they have every right to that opinion. The Government of India may console themselves with the thought that the Secretary of State has not condemned it, but of that the public are the best judges, for they are at best interested parties. But that's a small matter. Sir Alexander Arbuthnot candidly confesses that the Act has been generally condemned by the public voice both in India and in England, and what could be a greater reproach to an enlightened Government than this consensus of opinion against its policy or measure. The Hon'ble member does not defend the manner in which the Act was passed. He apologetically remarks: "I will only say that while the Government deemed it expedient that this course should be taken, and while they are still impressed with the necessity which led them to take this course, they perfectly recognise the fact that this is a question on which there is great room for difference of opinion; and they would greatly regret that the course which was taken in this case should be regarded as a precedent to be followed hereafter, save under circumstances of grave political emergency." He then attempted a reply to some caustic remarks of the dissenting members of the Indian Council. He said, "in the first place, it strikes me as a somewhat strange thing to be told that the members of this Council are too young to form a sound and calm judgment on a question of this nature. When, to take my own case, I remember that I have passed upwards of six and thirty years in the public service; when I reflect,—and it is a sad and melancholy reflection,—that several years have passed since I completed two-thirds of that period which is usually considered to be the average span of human life, I am amazed to learn that I am too juvenile to distinguish liberty from license, or to see the difference between the legitimate criticism of public men and measures, and the preaching of sedition, and disloyalty." We respect Sir Alexander's hoary hairs—we do not believe that he was individually in the mind's eye of Sir Erskine Perry—but what the members of the Indian Council said was that young officers of Government smarted under the castigations of the Vernacular Press, that the superior officers sympathized with them, and that the Vernacular Press Act is an expression of their sympathy. But the Government of India would not have perhaps passed such a retrograde measure, if it had been guided by men nurtured in the liberal traditions of free England. What Sir Alexander said about the influence of the Vernacular papers was contradicted by himself. He admitted that if the population of India was to be counted by millions, the circulation of the Vernacular papers could not be reckoned by more than a few thousands, and yet he thought that the mass of the population would be infected by the poison of the Vernacular Press. Could anything be more contradictory than this? He invoked the memory of Macaulay, but if we understand aright the character of that apostle of freedom, we cannot believe that he would have consented to repress the freedom of the Vernacular Press on the grounds stated by Sir Alexander. The mover of the Bill sought for support from an unexpected quarter—we mean the *Statesman*. He said that that paper alone had done justice to the policy of the Government. But we do not hesitate to say that if the Vernacular papers were to translate one-twentieth of what our respected contemporary writes daily, and not unoften with great justice, about the policy or measures of Government, they would fully justify the law, which has been passed for the repression of their freedom.

But what amuses us most is the apologies of Dr. Thornton. That learned gentleman made some revelations from the depths of his own consciousness as to the reasons of his support of the Act. He was indignant because he was called a young officer, when he has been for 20 years in this country. He pooh-poohed the knowledge of the great M. Ps. who had inveighed against the Act. An interpelletion happened on this point which we cannot resist the temptation of reproducing. Dr. Thornton said:

> My lord, all the able speakers who in the House of Commons disapproved of, or denounced the proceedings of this Council, laboured under one signal disability—they knew nothing about India.
>
> The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Arbuthnot: This is not quite correct. One of the speakers at all events, Sir George Campbell, knew something about India.
>
> The Hon'ble Mr. Thornton: I said "able speakers" (laughter.) None of the able speakers knew anything about India.

Poor Sir George! He is not considered by a Thornton to be an able man! As for Messrs. Gladstone and Co., they should hang down their heads! They know nothing of India, and therefore should not open their lips about it. What does it matter that under the British Constitution the House of Commons rules India, that the Viceroy is liable to impeachment by it, that any puny member of Council might be turned out by an adverse vote from it, aye, that the machinery of the Indian Government may be changed by its fiat. But, the members of Parliament do not know any thing about India, and so they have no business to talk about it! And such were the solid seasons, which led Dr. Thornton to vote for the Bill. He further explained himself:

> I propose, to take up the time of the Council (but not, I trust, unprofitably) by citing a few facts in support of my opinion,—facts which may possibly enable the public to gather some idea of the exceeding credulity and childish simplicity of a Punjab newspaper audience. The first instance I will bring to the notice of the Council occurred some years ago,—in the year 1861 or thereabouts. In or about that time a paragraph appeared in a vernacular newspaper to the effect that it was believed to be the intention of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India to issue a proclamation ordaining that, within a certain period, every male inhabitant of India should procure for himself and wear that species of European habiliment designated in colloquial language a *chimney-pot* (laughter), and that any person failing within the period prescribed to comply with the provisions of the ordinance would be liable to the pains and penalties of the Indian Penal Code. My lord, it will hardly be believed, but it is the fact that this absurd statement caused no small stir amongst the population of the Punjab. The second instance with which I will trouble the Council is of more recent date, but affords, I regret to say no indication of diminution in the credulous simplicity of the Punjab. Two or three years ago the General Commanding the Lahore Division, who had been giving his attention to the important subject of transporting artillery and military stores by railway, wished to test the efficiency of his arrangements by taking, one morning a battery of artillery and its accompaniments by railway from Lahore to the neighbouring city of Umritsur. Well, the intention of the General Commanding at Lahore was communicated to the local English newspaper. My lord, this newspaper, whatever may be its merits and I doubt not they are great and

numerous, is not usually addicted to pleasantry or humour of any sort (laughter); but on this occasion the Lahore journal for once belied its character, and unfortunately perpetrated a joke (laughter). It announced the intention of the military authorities by saying that "the General Commanding the Lahore Division intended next day to take the city of Umritsur by storm." This terrible announcement appeared, literally translated, in the vernacular newspapers, and so reached the ears of the people of Umritsur. And what did not citizens of that great city do? Well, I will tell your lordship what they did not do. They did not take the matter as a joke at all (laughter). They were filled with consternation; shops were closed; business was suspended; and the public mind was much agitated, until assured by the civil authorities the General Commanding the Lahore Division had no serious intention of blowing the City of Umritsur about the ears of its peaceful citizens (laughter).

Many other instances of similar credulity might be adduced, but I will content myself with one other illustration—an illustration intended to give the public some idea of the stage of mental development at which the mass of our population has arrived. I will read, then, to the Council the substance of an article,—a leading article,—which appeared a few weeks ago in the columns of a vernacular newspaper published in a city which aspires to be the most advanced and the most intelligent of all the cities under the administration of my hon'ble friend upon the left (Mr. Egerton); I mean the city of Delhi. In that city is published a vernacular newspaper which goes by the name of the *Nihir-i-Darakshan*, or 'Bright Sun'. In the pages of this brilliant periodical there appeared, in the month of July last, an article, the object of which is to prove the race-identity between the Hindu and the Englishman. This proposition, my lord, is supported, is seriously supported, by the following arguments:

Argument the first. 'There is a tribe of people in Europe called the Dutch. *Daksha* is the name of one of the sons of Brahma?' (laughter).

Argument the second. 'In the Urdu language *khatrin* means a woman of the *khari* caste. One of the wives of King Henry the 8th of England was called *Katherine*' (loud laughter).

Argument the third. 'Both Englishmen and Hindus bathe daily' (continued laughter).

Argument the fourth. 'Both Englishmen and Hindus eat pork. *Barah*, or *the hog* is the name of an incarnation of Vishnu, and *bacon* is a common name in England' (much laughter).

Argument the fifth. 'English women and Hindu women—wear petticoats' (great laughter).

And now comes an argument, which our author evidently considers (to use a familiar phrase) the clincher. It is as follows:—'Some Hindus wear the Brahminical thread. English wear braces' (much laughter).

My lord, the audience which believed the newspaper hoaxes of 1861 and 1875.—the audience to which the double distilled rubbish I have just quoted is seriously addressed is the population we had in view,—at any rate it is the population I had in view, when we passed the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 (hear, hear).

Admitting all that Dr. Thornton said, may we ask whether the double distilled rubbish he quoted was seditious or inflammatory, or came within any of the restrictive clauses of the Vernacular Press Act? Will the Act prevent the circulation of such rubbish? If not, why then, to use his own language employ a gigantic elephant to crush such an insignificant mosquitoe.

Of course no one seriously thought that the Government would so soon eat its own words and repeal or substantially amend the law. But we are satisfied that it will prove a dead letter. The Government has evidently no intention of enforcing it. In fact Sir Alexander Arbuthnot and Lord Lytton made a great merit of the abstinence of the Government for carrying it into effect. Sir Alexander said, "seven months have now elapsed since the Vernacular Press Act became law, and, with the exception of certain proceedings which, owing to an unfortunate misapprehension, were instituted in one province regarding certain writings which had been published before the passing of the Act, but which proceedings were promptly withdrawn, there has been no necessity for bringing the Act into operation in any single instance." Lord Lytton remarked: "Up to the present moment, no action has been necessary under the Act, and I trust that no such action will be necessary." But there has been something more. The magician's wand from the Vice-regal Council has completely changed the character of the Vernacular papers. Sir Alexander Arbuthnot said, "as a matter of fact, seditious and disloyal writing, calculated to inflame the minds of the masses and to bring the Government into contempt, has been entirely stopped. At the same time there has been no interference with the legitimate expression of opinion. I need only allude to the comments which have been constantly made in the vernacular newspapers on the Press Act, on the license tax, and on the Surat riots, and the prosecutions that arose therefrom to show that on all these matters and I may add on other questions in regard, to which there has been difference of opinion, in regard to which the measures of Government are objected to either by the community in general, or by particular classes, there is still the freest and the most unreserved criticism and comment." Dr. Thornton, the Rupert of debate, remarked:

We can say this—that the intolerable license of the past has disappeared, and that there is a most marked improvement in the general tone of the Vernacular Press of India. But not only has there been a marked improvement in the general tone of the press. In common with the Press Commissioner I have noticed also a marked improvement in the style and matter of the articles published. I must except indeed from this general commendation the lubrications of the brilliant Delhi periodical; but speaking generally, there is a noticeable improvement not only of tone but of style and matter—so much so that I have little doubt that at no distant period, the native Indian Press, instead of being as it has been too often in the past, a disseminator of mischief and more or less a reproach to civilization will become as indeed many vernacular newspapers are already, a valuable instrument of education, a valuable exponent of the views and wishes of the people, and a most useful aid to Government in the great and anxious work of administrating this vast empire (hear, hear.)

Bravo! Within seven months the Vernacular papers have entirely changed their character. So there is hope for the poor Indian. Who knows that under the magician's wand of the Vice-regal Council the leopard may not change its spots and the Ethiopian his skin. It was but yesterday that the writers of the Vernacular press were denounced as most malignant rebels at heart, that as secretly undermining the foundations of British supremacy in the East, only fit to be hanged and quartered. To-day they are held up to the gaze of the public as models of good and honest citizen, as patterns of loyal subject, as useful auxiliaries to the Queen's Government in India. And this wondrous change has been effected by a single Act of the legislature! Not all the mantras of the Hindu sastras, not all the mystic plants and herbs of the ancients possess that potent charm, which our law-makers seem to possess!

We turn with great pleasure to the concluding remarks of Lord Lytton. His Lordship said:

Adequate political information is as necessary for the sustenance of a healthy press as adequate food for that of a healthy human being. But in this country the only source of authentic political information is the Government itself whose political acts are the legitimate subject of that public criticisms which it is the function of the press to supply. If you put aside the Government; beyond, and apart, and independently of the Government where is such information to be found? In the rumours of the streets, in the gossip of the bazars, and the messrooms, in the interior consciousness of amateur political prophets, or the occasional indiscretion of some official clerk; and therefore, I think that, in presence of a press which is, so to speak, constrained to forage for its sustenance on such a barren moor, it is the duty of the Government, so far as it is possible to do so, to keep the press fully and impartially furnished with accurate current information in reference to such measures, or intentions on the part of the Government as are susceptible of immediate publication, without injury to the interests for which the Government is responsible. In the arrangements organised for this purpose no distinction has been admitted between one journal and another as regards the European press; nor any attempt made to bias the opinions of the press on the information thus impartially provided to it. Now, I am happy to say similar arrangements have already been commenced for placing respectable vernacular journals in this respect on precisely the same footing as that of their previously more privileged European contemporaries (hear, hear), and I hardly think that the better portion of the Vernacular Press will be disposed to dispute my assertion that its position so far as that position depends upon the Government, is, at the present moment, more satisfactory, and more assured, more respectfully recognised by the executive, and, therefore, more influential with the community than at previous period (hear, hear).

We can assure His Lordship that the Vernacular Press is deeply grateful to him for the courtesy and consideration thus shewn to it. His Lordship justly said that unless the Government supplied correct information, the press of India had no means of obtaining it, for how could the press circulate the truth, unless it was put in possession of it. We have no doubt that the confidence which the Government proposes to repose in the Vernacular Press will be a source of great strength to it, for if any thing will raise the character and usefulness of that press, it will be this generous policy of Lord Lytton. If the same policy had been pursued before, then the Vernacular Press would not have suffered from the noxious food, to which it was hitherto doomed. But our regret is enhanced that a statesman, who so generously appreciates the difficulties under which Vernacular journalism laboured, should have assented to a law, which utterly ignored those difficulties.

THE FAMINE CAMPAIGN IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

MR. WILLIAM DIGBY, Editor of the *Madras Times*, and Honorary Secretary to the Famine Relief Committee, Madras, has published a history of the Famine Campaign in Southern India during 1876-78. This is the first time that an independent history of an Indian famine has been recorded. Mr. Digby had rare opportunities in obtaining official records bearing on famine administration in Southern India. He was Secretary to the Famine Relief Committee, and had consequently access to authentic reports. He had also the confidence of the Government and was favoured with documents, which had not seen the light of publicity. Mr. Digby had thus ample materials at his disposal, and he has made a liberal use of them. His work has necessarily been one of scissors and paste, and it also bears marks of great haste. We are convinced that if Mr. Digby had worked leisurely and bestowed due care upon his performance he would have accomplished it much more successfully than he has been able to do. Mr. Digby says, "It is too soon to write a history of the famine campaign in India of 1876-1878. But it is not a day too soon to gather together the particulars of the various policies adopted in Madras, Bombay, and Mysore, while the facts are still fresh in men's memories, and the *minutiæ* of policy and administration are available, that these may remain on record to enable the historian to base his judgment upon a trustworthy narrative of facts. This it has been my chief object in the following pages to supply." We do not quite agree with him in this. He might have with great advantage waited till the publication of the report of the Famine Commission, for he could then follow up his narrative with remarks, which might have been of permanent value. Even if Mr. Digby thought it necessary to forestall the Famine Commission, he would have done a public service if he had so arranged his narrative and remarks as to answer the questions, which the Commission have issued.

So far as the narrative of the Famine Campaign goes it is full and faithful. From October 1876 the prospect of an impending Famine in Madras was urged by the local Government upon the Government of India, but the latter seemed to be impervious to any such representation. The same story came from Bombay and Mysore, but to no effect. As Mr. Digby says: "A dropping fire recording rain failure and consequent crop-loss was direct against the authorities throughout the year. No record appears in the Blue-Book presented to Parliament of the fact that month by month, from October 22nd 1875, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore had sent to the supreme authorities particulars of widening and deepening distress. Such particulars were furnished, and as far back as December 1875 it was seen that suffering was so great that the land revenue could not be collected without coercive measures. Mr. Dalyell was at that time acting as Chief Commissioner, and, on the permanent incumbent of the office arriving, proceeded from Bangalore to Calcutta to take up his duties as member of the Legislative Council almost immediately after, which makes it strange that little notice appears to have been taken of the condition of Mysore, in the despatches to the Secretary of State. However, the expenditure of a lac of rupees was authorised in April 1876 from the savings of the State, and this amount was ordered to be debited to district funds." Regarding the representations of the Madras Government, it would appear [illegible] the supreme authorities had argued in this wise: 'What need to prepare for great disasters, when we find that the cry of "Wolf" has repeatedly been raised, when comparatively little or no danger existed?' There was no wilful desire to ignore real distress but a conviction that those on the spot where distress manifested itself, would be, or were desirous of magnifying the disaster with which they might have to deal. Thus the Government of India persisted in its scepticism till the stern reality forced itself upon it with all its horrors. The Government of India even then, instead of taking the local Government into confidence, deputed a Delegate in the person of Sir Richard Temple, whose presence had a chilling effect. Mr. Digby has given without coloring

the war of words waged between the Government of Madras and the Government of India. And here he points a moral, which cannot be easily effaced from the minds of the people of India. He writes: "Whilst preparations were being made for the proclamation of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain as Empress of India, and whilst the ceremonies were actually in progress, 65,000 subjects of the Queen-Empress died of starvation and the diseases caused by insufficient nourishment, in the Madras Presidency alone. Thirteen thousand must similarly have perished in the Province of Mysore, but no record of deaths month by month has been published, how many died in Bombay Presidency is unknown, for here, too, reticence was displayed respecting mortality whilst scarcity and want were prevalent. The terrible character of the death-rate in the districts of Southern India was not known to the Viceroy and the Governors and Councillors who were assembled at Delhi, but enough was known to enable them to feel that they were face to face with the greatest disaster arising from drought which had visited India during the century." And yet the feasting and festivities went on. Mr. Digby thus describes Sir Richard Temple's tour: "With a rapidity unexampled, and at too great a speed to secure the object in view, viz., a thorough acquaintance with the real state of the country, Sir Richard and his staff literally 'raced' over the affected districts, caused reductions to be made in gratuitous relief, struck large numbers of the people off works, wrote numberless and very long minutes and memoranda, and in three months finished their task. The delegate's energy was praiseworthy, his intentions admirable, but his performances occasionally otherwise. It was impossible, in the hurried visits his Excellency made to districts, and in his conversations with officials, for him to adequately grasp the real facts of the situation. It will be shown that the statements in the delegates' despatches are not borne out by independent observations, and that the death-rate contradicts the *couleur-de-rose* view which he took. It does not seem unfair to the Delegate, judging him from his minutes, to assume that he went to Madras with the preconceived idea that the calamity had been exaggerated, that it was being inadequately met, and that, therefore, facts were, unconsciously may be, squared with this theory." The prospects of the Famine Compaign at almost its close, however, brightened up with the advent of Lord Lytton to the scenes of suffering. His Lordship after personal enquiries made arrangements for the conduct of the campaign, which proved eminently successful. The cost of the Famine Campaign is given at eleven millions of pounds sterling, but the actual loss of life, which has followed the ravages of the grim monster, will be never known. Mr. Digby's chapter on famine mortality is necessarily meagre and imperfect.

The second volume of Mr. Digby's work chiefly deals with famine charities and the administration of them. Incidentally our author discusses the question of the prevention of the recurrence of the famine. But he has not discussed it at length. He remarks: "The Indian Government have two courses before them: (1) doing nothing, and a Poor Law will be necessary in a generation; (2) exerting themselves to improve agriculture, to ensure that the land shall be properly cultivated and the idea of a Poor Law may be put off for several generations, for there is untold wealth a few inches beneath the surface of the soil if an improved plough is used to turn it up. That is, pauperism may be staved off if the authorities are wise and active, wise to prevent a yoke being put upon the people's neck which they are unable to bear, and active to devise such means as shall increase the food-producing qualities of the soil. Christianity may do much to help forward a better time, and may, if unwisely taught, do equally much to hinder real improvement." We do not see how Christianity can make the fields grow more food crops than they usually yield, or the peasantry fill their bellies where there is no food at home. But let that pass. Mr. Digby further on remarks: "The most pressing reform —though it is not recognised as such—before the Government of India is the enlargement and improvement of the village system. Instead, as in past years, of unwise and deeply regrettable legislation, weakening village communes, which has characterised administration in all parts of the land, the utmost efforts ought to be made to add to their efficiency, from the munsif (the headman) to the scavenger. With an organisation such as exists, strengthened and improved, the machinery of government is comparatively easy, and, from an administrative point of view, no modification of a European Poor Law will be needed to help in feeding the poor. With better village government, better village statistics, and general widening of knowledge, agriculture could be improved, manufacturing industries introduced and famine become as impossible in India as it is in France." Mr. Digby gives no scheme of village reform, and his remarks are therefore too generous. Unless he comes forward with a detailed scheme we cannot form an accurate idea of what he wants. With all its short-comings Mr. Digby's History of the Famine Compaign in Southern India we must admit is a valuable contribution to Indian Famine literature.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL.

THE last *Calcutta Gazette* contains a very able Resolution of the local Government on the last Revenue Administration Report of Bengal. It reviews in a lucid and comprehensive manner the details of revenue administration. The chief features in the land revenue administration of the past year we are told have been the operations under the Land Registration Act VII (B.C.) of 1876, and the introduction of the Public Works Cess Act II (B.C.) of 1877. The following table shows the statistics of land administration work for each division:—

DIVISION.	Applications received to 31st March 1878.	Disposed of up to 31st March 1877.	Disposed of in 1877-78.	Pending on 1st April 1878.	Expenditure During 1877-78.
					Rs.
Burdwan	69885	825	30991	38069	10729
Presidency	53761	184	18116	35461	7229
Rajshaye and Cooch Behar	28102	88	10825	17189	4547
Dacca	76619	214	29102	50303	15441
Chittageng	55687	297	9188	46202	12286
Patna	234994	2917	97313	134764	28159
Bhagulpore	52563	2263	16852	33448	5833
Orissa	136364	945	12245	123174	16392
Chota Nagpore	3953	9	3331	562	756
Total	711927	7742	228013	479172	101372

The Lieutenant Governor remarks: "Both in Dacca and Chittagong the work to be done is much greater than appears in the table, owing to the numerous cases in which applications regarding different shares, and even different properties, have been filed in one and the same petition. Notwithstanding the minute subdivision of properties in Behar, as clearly marked in the figures of the table, the work has made better progress in that division than in any other, there being less doubt as to the actual shares, owing probably to their having generally been split off by formal partition. In Orissa the number of rent-free tenures is very large, and as these were treated by the settlement officers as revenue-free properties, the work of registration will be very heavy, unless it is decided to exempt petty estates of this class. The matter is under consideration. On the whole, in most districts satisfactory progress have been made in disposing of applications under the Act, and recognizing the importance of completing the work as soon as possible, the Lieutenant Governor has expressed himself willing to sanction extra agency wherever the Board think this to be really required." We wish a statement of the stamp revenue derived under the operation of the Land Registration Act had been given. With regard to the cesses, the Resolution says, the Public Works cess came into force in June 1877, and three quartars' cess became due within the financial year 1877-78. The demand for the three quarters was Rs. 25,91,062, and the collections were Rs. 20,47,680. For convenience of collection, however, the Public Works Cess years has now been made coincident with the Road Cess year, which runs from 1st October to 30th September. The demand of Public Works cess for the cess year 1877-78 is Rs. 34,99,334, while the demand for road cess is Rs. 30,63,845. What is the cause of this difference in the produce of the Road Cess and Public Works Cess? We believe both the cesses are now levied throughout all the districts of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. In connection with the road cess, it is interesting to observe the manner in which districts group themselves as regards income from the cess on lands. Taking this at maximum rates, the districts with incomes of over a lakh of rupees would stand thus—

	Rs.		Rs.
1. Gya ...	196736	9. Shahabad ...	148115
2. Backergunge ...	193455	10. Mozufferpore ..	144084
3. Burdwan ...	160045	11. Rungpore ...	122057
4. Patna ..	159944	12. Bhaugulpore ...	112883
5. Durbhunga ...	157958	13. Monghyr ...	109387
6. Sarun ...	154070	14. 24-Pergunnahs..	107698
7. Midnapore ...	152150	15. Hooghly ...	106346
8. Mymensing ...	149057	16 Jessore ...	102287

The results in the temporarily settled districts are as follows:

Cuttack	40.729
Balasore	29.323
Poorce	27,348

So the Permanent Settlement has proved financially more remunerative as regards the produce of the cesses than the temporary settlement. In the collection of the revenue the Permanent Settlement has proved still more advantageous. The total number of estates on the revenue roll in 1877-78, as compared with 1876-77, is shown in the following table:—

Class of estates.	1877-78.	1876-77.
I.—Permanently settled estates...	136,228	132,571
II.—Temporarily ditto. ...	7,560	7,498
III.—Government estates ...	2,569	2,432
IV.—Ryotwari tracts ...	23	27
	146,380	142,528

The unrealized balances at the close of the year were as follow:

		Rs.		
In class	I. ...	8,07,206 or	2·42	per cent. of the gross demand.
,,	II. ...	4,05,612 or	14·51	,,
,,	III. ...	7,99,575 or	32·96	,,
,,	IV. ...	1,07,043 or	16·93	,,

So the Government has been put to the least trouble and expense in realizing the revenue from permanently settled estates.

The Board's report contains some valuable remarks on the relations between the landlord and tenant, which we give below:

"The Board are of opinion that the whole subject of the rent law and of the relation between the landlord and tenant, will ere long force itself before the Government, and require to be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. It is an enormous subject to face, and so beset with difficulties, that there is great danger of its raising such a controversy as may destroy the possibility of any useful measure being passed; but such a measure is urgently called for. Whether the old condition of status, which is now rapidly receding, was inferior to the present relations of mere contract, which are year by year supplanting it may be an open question but that the one system must disappear, and the other replace it, is now inevitable. That being so, it is the more necessary to be prepared with a code of law which may admit of being applied with equity and constructive effect, and the Board cannot say that the present code fulfils these conditions. Act X. of 1859, replaced by Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1869, have no doubt their merits, but the last 18 years' experience has shown many defects and mistakes in them which are continually sapping the agricultural prosperity of the country, and that the more effectually as the law is the more resorted to. The important subject of occupancy rights for instance, a most beneficial provision in its original conception, has now been reduced to a state of chaos by conflicting decisions, and it is uncertain whether more than one person can have an occupancy right in the same land, and if not, who of the many grades of under-tenants can successfully claim it. Again, the zemindar's right of suit for every kist the day after it is due, the ryot's right of depositing anything he likes and calling it his rent, all require to be carefully re-considered and kept within safer limits. Still more, the need of a simpler machinery for recovering arrears of rent, including cesses, is urgently called for. The difficulties of legislation may be postponed perhaps for another year or two, but the Board are disposed to think that the sooner the subject is grappled with the better."

The Lieutenant Governor does not agree with the Board. His Honor says, "he thinks it very

possible that the revision of the Rent Law, desired by the Board, may have eventually to be taken in hand, though there is at present apparently no very marked demand for this, and he will be very glad to receive from the Board a draft of such a law. It is, however, of urgent importance to give the zemindar the means of realising more readily his undisputed rents, and at the same time to place the tenant-right of the ryot on a firmer basis, and these two ends the Lieutenant Governor hopes to secure at no very distant date. He could not hope for any such result were the necessary measures made a part of a general codification of the Rent Law, which it might take years to settle." We can appreciate the difficulties under which His Honor labors, but we fear the whole question of the rent-law must be tackled some day or other. We are only afraid that a revision of the law may make it worse than it now is. However objectionable piece-meal legislation may be, Sir Ashley Eden evidently thinks that he cannot hope to carry into completion a comprehensive revision of the Rent-law in his own time, and so he is content with what he can reasonably hope to accomplish. In coming to this decision he has shewn his usual common sense. It is better to do something than to attempt too much at once and after all to do nothing.

THE PROSPECTS OF MORAL PROGRESS IN INDIA.

MR. H. J. S. COTTON, late Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, has contributed an article to the *Fortnightly Review* with the above title. It is to all intents and purposes a protest against the diffusion of English education in India. The writer starts with the enunciation of an extraordinary opinion that the "influence of education is more specious than real." According to this opinion education is a mistake, and modern society which is the resultant force of the intellectual and moral impulses imparted by education, is a solecism. We do not believe that Mr. Cotton will accept this position in its naked form, but his words have no other meaning. Starting with this theory, Mr. Cotton naturally undervalues the influence of English education in India. He says, "it is not difficult to show that the action of the system is as little ennobling as its incidence is superficial. Although the benefits of Western civilization are too great and self-evident to be ever seriously undervalued, our admiration would be blind indeed if we were not able to acknowledge that grave evils are likely to attend upon the transplantation of such an exotic to Indian soil. The actual Hinduism of the present has behind it a polytheistic past of thirty centuries or more, and this past must inevitably mould and colour its future, whatever the form into which it may hereafter be developed. Already, however, the introduction of a Western system has been to break this continuity. We may observe in the minds of all our educated natives, whether belonging to the careless many or the earnest few, an undisguised contempt for the simple faith of their forefathers. We may observe a deplorable tendency to exaggerate the value of modern at the expense of ancient achievements. It is undoubted that one effect of our education has been to undermine the social feelings of attachment, obedience, reverence for age, and respect for ancestors. In these respects, as in others, *the vices of Europe have supplanted virtues of a distinctly oriental character.*" In making these observations Mr. Cotton has evidently looked at one side of the picture. It is undeniable that with the English advent into this country European vices have crept into it, but it is most illogical to assume that they are due entirely to English education. These vices are not unfrequently the results of the commingling of the two races. It is easier to imitate vices than virtues, and the vices to which Mr. Cotton alludes are not confined to English-educated natives. These vices are, indeed, more rampant among the non-educated and half-educated than well-educated natives, and this fact is a proof sufficient that the mischief is not so much due to English education as to the "indirect influences," on which the writer lays stress. The imitation of European vices is the inevitable sequence of European domination in the East. It was the same in the days of Mahomedan supremacy in this country. Fashions descend, and whether these fashions be intellectual, social, moral, or domestic, when patronized by the ruling race, are almost unreservedly followed by the ruled or the subject millions. Thus it is that men, who have not the slightest pretence to English education, imperceptibly imbibe western ideas, fashions, and modes, and there is no social or moral force which can counteract this tide. On the other hand education has a humanizing and chastening influence, and a properly educated man, though he may not respect ancient ideas and traditions, having the power of discriminating what is right and what is wrong, embraces new ideas, not from an unreasoning love of imitation, but from rational inquiry, examination and conviction. Mr. Cotton condemns the Government system of education because it is "godless," but this policy has been decided by some of the ablest, most enlightened, and far-seeing English statesmen, and does not admit of discussion. We have been not a little surprised to see Mr. Cotton hold that the Government system of education leads to "chaos," because it is not founded on a religious basis. He seems to think that there is no moral teaching in our schools and colleges, because they do not present to the student the godhead in the person of Christ, Mahomed, Brahma or Vishnu. This is a serious mistake. Every lesson taught in the schools conveys moral instruction. But, says Mr. Cotton, "education will never be in a healthy condition so long as the teaching of the home is at utter variance with the teaching of the school or college. But how can changes in the home tide of the Hindu arise without preliminary preparation by education. Mr. Cotton, however, does justice to the domestic life of the Hindu. He remarks: "The domestic life of the Hindu is indeed in itself not more immoral than that of a European home. Far from it; there is so much misconception on this point, that it is desirable to state the very contrary. The affection of Hindus for the various members of the family group is a praise-worthy and distinctive feature of national character, evinced not in sentiment only, but in practical manifestations of enduring charity; the devotion of a parent to child, and of children to parents, is often most touching. The normal social relations of a Hindu family, knit together by ties of affection, rigid in chastity, and controlled by the public opinion of village elders and caste, command our admiration, and in many respects afford an example we should do well to follow. There is nothing radically wrong in the young Hindu's home associations. But the life he leads does present a painful contradiction where, to take an ordinary type, the family idols are tended by the mother and other female members of the family at sunrise and sunset with flowers, and ablutions, and ceremonial observances; and in the meanwhile the midday occupation of the student consists in analysing, it may be Milton's *Areopagitica*, a favorite text-book, or some other scathing exposition of priestcraft and idolatry. It is impossible that education can be healthy under such conditions." "The result of English education" he says, "is an anarchy for which Government is responsible, and which it is powerless to remedy. The situation is now one of extreme social anarchy, and although the disturbance is not widespread, but prevails only among a limited section of the community, the mere existence of a disorganized class within the community is in itself no small evil." Mr. Cotton here makes a strange confusion of the effects of education with the condition of the educated natives. In the first place he admits that the sympathies between the Englishman and the Indian are less kindly at the present day than they were a few years ago, when the affairs of the country were controlled by the fathers of the present generation." Formerly, English officials, notwithstanding their occasional sacrifice of self-respect, did succeed in some measure in identifying themselves with the people. Their absorbing devotion to India was not diverted into other channels. Their home was their adopted country. Now their successors, with stronger ties to England and increased facilities for visiting England, grudge every hour of Indian service which keeps them from the West, where they feel, and of course feel rightly, they have their real home. Home yearnings, instinctively right in themselves, thus prejudice an active outflow of sympathy for a dark-skinned and subject people." This divergence of feeling Mr. Cotton indirectly attributes to English education. And he then draws a picture of the depressed condition of the educated natives. He says:

"The Government is in need of a certain number of intelligent English-speaking natives, who are to hold subordinate appointments and do its work. In consequence it has brought into existence an unfortunate and, as we can now see, most undesirable class for this purpose. A new race has arisen in our midst. We have created an Anglo-Vernacular middle class, whose members seek a livelihood exclusively in service or about the courts of law. The class is fairly represented by the Baboo of Bengal, with whom every one who has been in India is familiar. His virtues are conspicuous, and it is felt as an ungrateful duty in speaking of a community that contains so many men of sterling merit and of a high order of probity and ability, and for whom personally we entertain sincere regard and cordial attachment, to be compelled to criticise its members as a body in terms of disapprobation. It is in no spirit of anger, certainly in no spirit of dislike, that we arrive at an unfavorable opinion of the class. Few English officials are more indebted than the writer for aid and co-operation most generously accorded by natives at all times, and it is far from his wish to record a harsh verdict upon friends, colleagues, and subordinates in a distant country. Those who have known the Baboo longest and best will be the last to speak of him in language of unreserved condemnation.

But justice forces us to say that his virtues are tempered, and sometimes overshadowed, by defects, the result of circumstances over which he has little or no control, but which are none the less disappointing and dangerous. The class is educated—highly educated as compared with the mass of the people, who can wonder that it should be conceited, and hold itself aloof? The class is debarred from holding the highest offices under Government: who can wonder that it should be discontented? The class is an artificial and exotic product: who can wonder that it should be disorganised and demoralised within itself and in its relations to society at large? Neither national nor foreign, neither native nor European, neither oriental nor occidental, alien to and, in many cases, jealous of the foreign superstructure of Government, alien to and, in many instances, despising the less favored natives of their own country—the class of the so-educated community discharges no civilising or useful function in general society, and internally is torn by discord in the family, and by a life of self-contradiction, more or less in almost every individual instance. Further complications also have arisen. The narrow sphere in which alone the educated natives find it possible to move is dangerously over-crowded. The exigencies of a foreign Government exclude them from holding the higher offices of State, social prejudices, the strength of which it is impossible to exaggerate, forbid them to resort to manual work. The conception of the dignity of labour is even now but a faint glimmering light among the advanced civilizations of the West. The conception, however, exists. In India, on the contrary, the idea is rooted that labour is debasing and degrading, and utterly unworthy of a man who is in a social sense of respectable parentage, or of one who although sprung from the lower ranks has penetrated by a knowledge of the mystic symbols into the arcana of the elect. Numbers of young men year by issue from our institutions who find that they can obtain neither practice in the law courts nor places in the public service. They look back on all the mental toil they have endured, and are chagrined in discovering that in but too many instances it leads to nothing. This accounts mainly for the discontent and restlessness which are perceptible in the rising generation. "It is melancholy," writes Sir Richard Temple, the late Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, in his last report: "It is melancholy to see men, who once appeared to receive their honors in the university convocation, now applying for some lowly-paid appointment, almost begging from office to office, from department to department, or struggling for the practice of a petty practitioner, and after all this returning baffled and disheartened to a poverty-stricken home, and then to reflect how far happier their lot might have been had they while at school or college, been able to move in a healthier atmosphere of thought and freer walks of life. Nevertheless, with these examples before their eyes, hundreds, perhaps thousands of young men, persist in embarking on the same course, which can only lead to the same ending. And one reason, among several reasons, is this, that they still dread and dislike the thought of manual work, even though it be accompa-

nied with mental training. This unhappy prejudice, though not perhaps avowed nor even admitted, is palpably existent and banefully influential." It is evident in such a condition of things that the general sense of the population of the country is not prepared to acknowledge the priceless boon of education befittingly."

We do not understand why Mr. Cotton considers the educated natives "an undesirable class" for Government employ. Surely he does not wish that the loaves and fishes of the State should be monopolized by the white men and that the black men should serve only as hewers of wood and drawers of water. But if his advice is to be taken it would come to that pass. We should shut up our schools and colleges. He remarks:

"A policy of inactivity is demanded in this crisis. It is the peculiar privilege of man to guide progress, to stimulate action, and where necessary to refrain from interference. And from the Government point of view a policy of inaction is often the most desirable. As far as Government is concerned, the theory of education in India may be regarded as simply a bargain between the British Government on the one hand, and a certain number of natives who are to hold Government appointments on the other. If the Government, as appears most probable, can now obtain an adequate supply of servants without any educational action of its own—well and good: if it cannot, it is its duty to train up the number of servants it requires and no more. It seems to the writer that with the single exception of the developement of primary education in the indegenous schools, and possibly of the establishment of a few high institutions for special branches, Government should abstain from any active interference. All systematic education beyond this limit should be left to private enterprise. When the State endeavours to impart "higher instruction" and thereby, as is implied, to direct and mould the national mind it deviates wholly from its proper sphere and inflicts serious injury upon intellectual and moral progress. This is a universal truth, but it is especially applicable to the case of India, and, as things now are in that country, it would surely be the wisest policy to refrain from a course which leads directly to collision with the old theocratic organization. Our chief end in view should be to maintain the *status quo* until modifications can be introduced which shall enable us to pass from the old to the new without perceptible disturbance. Hindoo polytheism is a present basis of moral order, and rests upon foundations so plastic that it can be moulded into the most diverse forms adapting itself equally to the intellect of the subtle metahpysician and to the emotions of the unlettered peasant. It combines in itself all the elements of intensity, regularity, and permanence. Its chief attribute is stability. The system of caste, far from being the source of all the troubles which can be traced in Hindoo society, has rendered the most important services in the past, and still continues to sustain order and solidarity. The admirable order of Hindooism is too valuable to be rashly sacrificed before any Moloch of progress. Better is order without progress, if that were possible, than progress with disorder. Hindooism is still vigorous, and the strength of its metaphysical subtlety and wide range of influence are yet instinct with life. In the future its distinctive conceptions will be preserved and incorporated into a higher faith; but at present we are utterly incapable of replacing it by a religion which shall at once reflect the national life and be competent to form a nucleus round which the love and reverence of its votaries may cluster."

If the Government is to stand still, then there will be no progress. Mr. Cotton fears the disruption of the social forces under the influence of education, but what can prevent it? What does he himself say of the West? He writes: "If we look at the West as it actually is, we find a state of utter confusion in every department of human energy. Nations, churches, and classes are not only at war with one another but are disunited among themselves. It is a serious symptom of insufficiency that there should be found among us those who hope to establish a national organization upon the fragments of Christendom." But would Mr. Cotton on that ground stop education in the West? And if he would not do it in the West, why should he advocate such a course for the East! Evidently Mr. Cotton does not understand the epoch in which he lives.

RETIRED ANGLO-INDIANS.

Mr. Ronsar Cust was a distinguished Punjab Civilian. He was a contemporary of Sir Richard Temple, Mr. Seton-Karr, and the late Mr. Schalch. As a junior civilian he was noted for intelligence, application, and honorable ambition. He rose rapidly in the service, and made a name in Northern India for his fiscal knowledge. In 1867 he was struck down by a severe domestic affliction and abruptly departed for home. He did not afterwards return to India, but he did not forget the land of his adoption. He has lately published a book entitled "a sketch of the modern languages of the East Indies." To this book is attached a short preface, which throws a flood of light on the mode of living of retired Anglo-Indians. He thus gives his reasons for publishing the book: "I left India abruptly in 1867 under the pressure of heavy domestic affliction, a few months before my term of service was completed, and I had done my day's work. When, after a year of darkness, I found myself restored to my usual physical and intellectual vigour, my first thought was, "What can I do for India?" I was commissioned to draft a Land Revenue Code for the North-West Provinces, and when that work was done, I applied for employment, as Assistant Secretary in the Revenue and Judicial Department of the India Office, which happened to fall vacant. There were, however, so many gentlemen to be provided for, who had never seen India, nor knew the difference between a "Jagir" and a "Jhagra," a "fusul" and a "faisala, that I had to fold up in a napkin my experience of a quarter of a century from the lowest to the highest grade in both Departments, and look about me for something else to do." So much for the manner in which appointments are jobbed away at the India Office.

But to our subject. How do retired Anglo-Indians pass their days at home? Read what Mr. Cust says: "Some of my contemporaries had taken to brewing beer; another had patented a machine for blacking shoes with a rotatary brush, a third was out in Egypt managing the private estates of the Khedive; a fourth was Director of a Bank and Treasurer to a Hospital, a fifth was being yelled at in the House of Commons, a sixth was trying petty cases as a Justice of the Peace. All old Indians must do something. So I turned back to my old love, before I went to India and took up the skein, where I dropped it in 1842, of Language." "Such is the life to which retired Anglo-Indians, ex-proconsuls, Judges, Commissioners, Magistrates *et hoc genus omne*, are doomed. In India they have governed the destinies of millions, at home they sink into the mass. Some take to brewing beer, one has actually taken out a patent for blacking shoes with a rotatary brush! Oh! What a fall is there! We once heard a good story about the life of an ex-Indian Governor in England. An Ayah had accompanied an English lady to England, she was formerly in the service of the ex-Governor, one day she was in a public market and saw the great man making his own bazzar. Her Oriental heart was touched to the quick by this scene, and she burst into tears. A crowd gathered round her and enquired of the cause of her distress. Among the crowd was the ex-Governor. The weeping Ayah pointed to the ex-Governor. He was quite non-plussed. He did not remember the Ayah, and protested that he had done any wrong to her. The good woman relieved the ex-Governor's mind at once by saying that he has not injured her in any way. What was it then, asked the crowd, which made her weep? She answered. "It was the condition of that gentleman," pointing to the ex-Governor. "He was the lord of our country; he ruled the destinies of millions; a single word from him could make and unmake a man. Under him were troops of men, who obeyed his behests. What sin has he committed that he has been doomed to make his own bazar? It was his condition, which had moved her." And Mr. Cust's story of the life of the retired Anglo-Indians more or less fits into the pathetic tale of the Ayah. Mr. Cust then goes on in his preface:

"My stock-in-trade was a good knowledge of twelve Languages, six European, six Asiatic, a good memory, and a great passion for the study. I began by making a general and superficial survey of the whole subject of our existing knowledge, from Chinese to Anglo-Saxon, from Assyrian and Accadian to Finnic and Basque, was astonished at the progress that had been made in the number of subjects, the number of workers, the number of books published, the extraordinary energy, interest, and acumen displayed, the number of controversies, which were raging, and the bitterness displayed by scholars towards each other. This survey, summary as it was, occupied me three years, and I then desired to find some more particular and specific study in one corner of the subject; and again the old feeling rose within me—"What can I do for India?"

In no department of the great Science of Language had greater progress been made than in that of the Languages of the East Indies. I feel ashamed now at my gross ignorance of the subject, when I left India. In fact, as a highly-paid public officer, I had been for twenty-five years foolishly devoting all my energies and leisure to the discharge of the duties for which I was paid, and had thought of nothing beyond advancing the public service. As it proved, it would have been more prudent to have dabbled in linguistics and archæological studies, served out my time, and secured the pension, which from ill-health and overtaxed energies I had forfeited. However, I found, that the information with regard to the Langnages of the East Indies was scattered in a great many volumes and serials, so I first consolidated it for my own use, and now publish it, under the idea, that I am still doing something for India."

It is strange that after serving his sovereign with distinction for about a quarter of a century Mr. Cust is left to pine away without a pension, because he was obliged to leave the country abruptly under the load of a heavy domestic affliction and did not stay to complete the usual period of service. Would John Company have so scurvily treated a faithful and meritorious servant? We do not hesitate to say—no!

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

We understand that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor returns to Calcutta on or about the 20th proximo. His Honor was to have left for Tongloo on the 27th instant; after visiting that place His Honor we are told returns to Darjeeling and then takes a short trip to Sikkim.

We understand that Mr. C. T. Metcalfe, Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and Commissioner of Police, takes furlough from December next, but he takes preparatory leave for a fortnight from the middle of November. Accordingly he makes over charge to Mr. Souttar on the 15th proximo.

The prospects of the crops according to all accounts are good. But the agriculturists have been disappointed in not receiving the ripening showers of October. One good shower at this time would have been a blessing. Rain was much wanted in Behar. We may still expect rain.

We are exceedingly glad to see it stated that the Government has allowed Mr. J B. Roberts, Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, further extension of service by two years. By this act of grace Sir Ashley Eden has done justice to a most deserving and devoted public servant and subserved the true interests of the State. We believe Mr. Roberts' intelligent, indefatigable and close supervision of the Stamps and Stationery Office has resulted in economy, which more than covers the salary he draws.

Sir Stuart Hogg has formally tendered his resignation of the office of Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. Although not personally known to most of the members of the present corporation, his services are too well known to require recapitulation. Apart from the great qualities which contributed to his success as the Lord Mayor of Calcutta, namely, superior ability, indefatigable energy and rare decision of character, he possessed a remarkable elasticity of mind and loyalty of disposition, which helped him to meet reverses with calmness, and to carry out views and measures though opposed to his own with fidelity and zeal. He was a generous foe, and if he was opposed to a measure or man he would speak out at once, but if he was discomfitted he would not seek to circumvent his opponent by tortuous action. This was notably the case on the introduction of the elective system of Municipal Government into Calcutta. He was dead opposed to it, but when the new Municipal Act became a *fait*

accompli he felt that the public might not have confidence in him, if he worked out the new constitution. So he tendered his resignation to Sir Richard Temple. But Sir Richard did not wisely accept it, and were it not for the energy and influence of Sir Stuart Hogg, it would have been difficult to put the new machine in working order. Sir Stuart, in acting the part of the pilot for the new Municipal vessel, forgot that he was opposed to it; he worked with industry, energy and zeal as if he were its god-father; and if he had been he s, we make no doubt that notwithstanding all the evil omens made of his past despotism, he would have proved a successful helms-man for the new ship of the Calcutta Municipality. We believe Sir Stuart's resignation will be placed before the Commissioners next Wednesday, and we hope that as the representatives of the town, they will make a suitable recognition of his services to it.

SOME OF our contemporaries, we observe, are finding fault with the Government for buying bills in the Indian market for the accommodation of the Secretary of State. The arrangement has been made cleverly, because it has not in the slightest degree disturbed the exchange. The transaction has on the other hand proved most favourable to Government. We do not understand why the Government should be blamed for taking advantage of the market. Of course those who have been disappointed by this *coup* grumble, but the general tax-payer has good reasons to be satisfied. We observe that Mr. Chapman, the Financial Secretary, has been sharply criticised for employing a broker related to him for this business. We do not see why this proceeding of the Financial Secretary should be held open to censure. It was his duty to have employed the man, who had his confidence most, and the success which has attended the transaction shews that his confidence was not misplaced. We entirely agree with the city writer of the *English man* who says: "Looking at it merely from a financial point of view, and considering the magnitude of the operation, it has certainly been carried through with an amount of tact that reflects credit on those entrusted with the negotiation."

WE CANNOT congratulate the Government of India on the vacillating policy it is pursuing in filling in the transfer loan of 5½ per cent. We are informed from Simla that a notification has been published in last Saturday's *Gazette* of India keeping the transfer loan, 1879, open till further orders for transfer of notes and stock of the 5½ per cent. loan into the first or 4½ per cent. form only and for cash subscriptions at par. This sort of dilly-dally is not calculated to enhance the respect of the public for the Government.

IN THE late controversy regarding the election of Dr. Mohendralal Sircar as a Member of the Medical Faculty of the Calcutta University the orthodox doctors raised a scare that the degrees of this University would not be recognized in England if a homœopath were associated with the Faculty. The Regulations framed by the General Medical Council on education and examination contains the following reference to India.

Exemptions.—1. Any candidate who shall produce satisfactory evidence of having passed an examination on Chemistry and Materia Medica, required for a Degree in Medicine at an University in the United Kingdom, in India, or in a British Colony, will be exempted from re-examination on those subjects,—2. Any candidate who has already obtained the Degree of Doctor or Bachelor of Medicine at an University in the United Kingdom, in India, or a British Colony, or who shall have obtained a qualification entitling him to practise Medicine or Surgery in the country where such qualification has been conferred, wherein the courses of study and the examinations to be undergone previously to graduation shall have been adjudged by the Censors' Board to be satisfactory, shall be exempt (if the censors shall think fit) from all or any parts of the examinations here in before described except such as relate to the third or pass-examination. The nature and extent of this examination shall in the case of each candidate, be determined by the Censors' Board.

No reference it will be observed is made to Homœopathy. In some of the Colonies both Allopathy and Homœopathy are taught side by side, and yet the degrees conferred by the colonial universities are not excluded. But our orthodox doctors argued that if a homœopath were admitted into the Medical Faculty of the Calcutta University, its medical degrees would be ignored in England!

THE PRACTICAL working of the License tax has been attended with a difficulty, which neither the Act nor the rules enjoined provide for. In the first place in calculating the two per cent. assessment upon earnings the question is whether the calculation should be made upon gross or net earnings. Now, the license tax being in its nature a rough income tax the net earnings ought to be taken into calculation, but we are told that the practice followed in this respect is not uniform. Then again are persons, whose earnings are nil, to be assessed or not? According to the principle of two percent. assessment, persons, who can shew that they have had no earnings or profits, should not be assessed at all. In the third place whether the earnings should be shewn from the accounts of the previous or present year. Some supplementary rules on these points are desirable.

THE PUBLIC we believe were prepared for a squall at the meeting of the subscribers to the Temple Asylum for Blind and Incurables held on Saturday the 19th instant, after the insulting letter which the Secretary thought fit to address the President of the Committee, and which we published in a recent issue. Maharajah Norendrakrishna, the President, a nobleman not only by rank but by instinct, showed a generous forbearance by attending the meeting. But we have been not a little surprised to observe that the subscribers present, intelligent and respectable gentlemen, took no steps to vindicate the dignity of the President. According to rules of procedure in all public bodies the Secretary acts under the orders of the President, and when the latter directs him to call a meeting, it is simply impertinence on the part of the former to defer it for two months on the ground of personal convenience. Not only did Dr. Woodford as Secretary to the Asylum Committee defer the meeting called for by the President for about two months, but he addressed him a most insulting letter without any provocation whatever. The subscribers, however, took no notice of this strange conduct of their Secretary. The published report of the meeting gives no information as to how the proposed institution is to be carrried on. We observe that no less a sum than Rs. 3,000 was spent in realising subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 25,000 and in paying sundry charges connected with the fund, that the whole or nearly the whole of this amount has been spent upon building a house, which is still unroofed, that although a large amount still remains to be collected, no information is given as to whether that amount is sufficient for the maintenance of the institution or what arrangement if any has been made with the Government for this purpose. From the beginning we expressed doubts as to the probability of the institution being self-supporting, and if we understand aright the position of the fund, there is no prospect of it whatever. Unless the Committee are in a position to support the institution the outlay upon the house has been a sheer waste of public money.

MR. ROUTLEDGE, the well-known Friend of India, has contributed to the last number of the Journal of the National Indian Association an eloquent and generous article entitled "Heroism of a Bengali gentleman." In this article he notices in his usual vigorous style the heroism of Babu Kristo Chunder Chukerbutty, who was lately rewarded by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for rescuing from a watery grave a poor woman consigned to the sacred Hooghly by her relatives as dead. Mr. Routledge thus concludes:

I unhesitatingly repeat that the want of courage is not as some people assert, the characteristic of Bengal. Many Bengalees will endure for family and friends what many Englishmen would shrink from a dismay. But to foster a contempt for physical danger and a brave individuality may be among the noblest of all duties to young Bengal, and the act of this brave man ought to have a generous recognition. Lord Macaulay did much in his brilliant way, to misrepresent and doubtless he misunderstood at least some traits of the Bengalee character. Several generations of Bengalees had been schooled to the service of Europeans. Unnumbered generations had been the prey of every invader. But how it may be said, could this have been if the people have possessed courage. How was it that the sunny south of Europe was again and again deluged by vast tidal waves of barbarism? The parts of the world whose inhabitants sowed and reaped and built houses, were always, granting that the arms were not superior, at the mercy of the men who sowed nothing and reaped nothing, and built nothing but triumphal mounds with the hecatombs of the dead. It is true that England has been like a protecting genius to Bengal. It is true also that it is by the help of Bengal that we now rule beyond the Indus and far beyond the Brahmapootra. Of late years a number of ardent Englishmen—and for a much longer period isolated Englishmen of the same spirit—have been urging on Bengal to ride and hunt, and swim, and stand up to instead of sitting down before, their anvils. "Be robust," has been the cry to young men, some of whom have come bravely over the ocean and wrested from us the prizes in our own Universities. Here is one instance of "robustness," and indeed heroism, of which any Englishman might have been proud. I wonder if the Royal Humane Society will answer my friend's appeal as it deserves, and by a medal which would have great value assist to bind to us as a nation the gentle peaceful race to which Mr. Chuckerbutty belongs and to which he has done so much honour.

No Bengali can read the above without a thrill. Would that all Englishmen who come out to this country were animated with the same spirit!

IT MAY SOOTHE the *Civil and Military Gazette* to know that we have not given up Mr. O'Donnell. He may be under a cloud owing to his unpopularity with the extreme Nationalist party of Ireland, but he seems to hold his ground in the estimation of his moderate and really patriotic countrymen. The following account of his reception at Carndonagh published in *Freeman's Journal* shows how he is regarded by his countrymen:

The arrival of Mr. O'Donnell, M. P., in Inishowen was the occasion of a great demonstration of welcome at Carndonagh, where many of his relatives reside. The town last night was illuminated, and a numerous procession, bearing lighted tar barrels, and headed by the Carndonagh O'Connell Band paraded the streets. At eight o'clock a public meeting was held in Church street round a platform erected for the occasion. Mr. John Doherty, Chairman of the Board of Guardians having briefly referred to the close ties which unite Mr. O'Donnell and the people of Carndonagh and the pride which they took in the success of one whom they might call their townsman, Mr. O'Donnell came forward and addressed the meeting in thanks for his reception. He did not expect so generous an expression of the feeling of Inishowen. Blood was thicker than water however and he trusted that his father's people would never have cause to regret the kindness they had shown him. Mr. O'Donnell went on to speak on the political situation, and declared amid loud cheering that the grant of a popular franchise was the indispensable preliminary to Home Rule and tenant right and that extension of the suffrage would quickly terminate the alien ascendency which oppressed the old land of O'Doherty and O'Donnell. A vote of thanks proposed by Dr. O'Doherty and seconded by Mr. Harkin, was carried with great enthusiasm, and after a short address from the Rev. Father Devine, advising the people to go home in quiet, the multitude separated in perfect order with cheers for the future member for Donegal.

The head and front of Mr. O'Donnell's offending in the eyes of the Nationalist party has been the support he has given to the foreign policy of the ministry. Surely the *Civil and Military Gazette*, which seems to be an admirer of the "spirited foreign policy" of Lord Beaconsfield, should not take objection to that.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following communication recording the reconquest of Kashgar and Yarkund by the Chinese:—

Information has been received of some details of the reconquest of Kashgar and Yarkund by the Chinese. This information is in great measure based on the reports sent to the Emperor of China by Tso Tsung Tang the Imperial Commissioner, the decree of the Chinese Imperial Government made thereupon and information derived from various other sources. It appears that in 1877, what are known by the Chinese as the four Eastern cities south of the Tien Shan Mountains were captured and held by them. For the attack of Kashgar, General Yu-Hsun was ordered to advance from with the main Army by way of Barachuk, Maralbashi, while Hwang Wan-peng was ordered to proceed by way of Ush [? Ush Turfan] with a supporting force. Sin Kin-tang meanwhile established himself at Maralbashi, and advancing from that point made a rapid move forward, fought a successful action at Aksigar, and captured the city of Yarkund on the 21st December. On the 24th December the Yangi Shahr, the new city of cantonments beyond Yarkund, was taken and Kashgar was reached on the 26th December. The forces despatched in that direction had reached Kashgar nine days previously and on the combination of the three columns the place fell and according to the translation of the Imperial decree "the enemy was completely disorganised, one of the leaders Kan Hsi-pu was captured alive, while others were beheaded on the field of battle, and the whole force exterminated." The combined force pursued the enemy until according to the words of the decree they disappeared entirely." Beg Kuli Beg, however, with a small force escaped into Russian territory and the Imperial force in pursuit was stopped at the Russian frontier, by a small force of cavalry. After consultation the Chinese Chiefs resolved not to embroil themselves, but to halt and send to the Commander-in-Chief for instructions. Meanwhile the General Tung Fushiang had been sent off towards Khoten and on the 2nd of January and the following days succeeded in bringing this town also under complete subjugation and defeated an Andijan force in a pitched battle.

The Imperial Commissioner Tso-tsung Tang appends to his report a supplementary memorial of which the following is a translation:—Further your servant has directed Sin Kin-tang to take all necessary measures for reorganising the Government in the Mohamedan cities brought under subjection, and at the same time to take steps completely stamping out every remnant of the rebel hordes, so that not one man may escape the meshes of the law. These

remains, however, much difficulty in dealing with Toh-yen-hu (Bargen-hu) * and his adherents. Sin Kin-tang has made several suggestions, and as, after careful consideration they appear to be practicable, your servant humbly begs to lay them before their Majesties, the Empress and H. M. the Emperor. From of old, the aid of diplomacy has been called in when, through insufficiency of means, resort to force has been, (or would have been) unsuccessful. Foreign nations have for a long time turned their eager attention towards China. Whatever may happen, the attitude they assume is suggested by the condition of China's strength or weakness. If we are strong they are friendly enough; if weak, they all entertain hostile designs; but what it is needless to dwell upon is the very serious danger which threatens China in Russia's gradual encroachment, inch by inch, and foot by foot, on the frontier. Bargen-hu and his adherents have sought refuge in Russian territory, taking with them their treasure and baggage; with the hope of gain held out to them, all will be but too willing to shelter and conceal him.

If immediate action is to be taken locally, the course would be for your servant to cross the Russian frontier with a force, and make Bargen-hu prisoner. Russia at the present moment is in the midst of many difficulties, and he would find it difficult to take this matter in hand as well. If action is to be taken more gradually by the Central Government, an Imperial decree might be issued directing the members of the Tsungli Yamen to begin by rising to the Russian Minister at Peking the arguments suggested by the Treaty. If, in disregard of the Treaty, he refuses to extradite the rebels, then your servant could adopt other measures locally. Or, the Foreign Powers might be invited to intervene, and the "Law of Nations appealed to in pressing the argument. As it is stated [in" the annals of Confucius] "it is difficult to go against the anger of them all"—and there is none but will waver when all are urgent, or again a nation such as England or Germany who at the present time are the most powerful countries in the world, might be taken into confidence, and then not Russia alone but no other country, could afford to despise [the combination.] It may be argued that with every body on one's side it is easy to overcome the isolated individual, but that with only the single individual's on one's side, it is difficult to overcome the multitude. He who so speaks forgets that if we have separate alliances with many countries, there will be a multiplicity of interests, and consequently absence of unanimity, whereas if we are allied to one country alone, interests are indentical, and unity of action very easily attained. Tsing Kin Tang formerly Governor-General of the two Kiang propounded this policy in 1869, and your servant then treasured up his words, unfortunately, at the time, the advice could not be acted upon; but if at the present crisis this policy be had recourse to, it may be resorted to, not only in this affair of Bayem-hu but on all and every occasion.

It is accordingly requested that a Decree be issued directing the Tsungli Yamen to take into consideration what course shall be pursued, and, to submit it for the approval of the throne.

Together with Kin-shur, military Governor of Ili etc etc and Sin Tien, Assistant Administrator of military affairs in Shenshi and Kansah, this supplementary memorial is respectfully submitted.

(Note—the memorial is not dated, it probably reached Peking about the 10th of March.)

From other accounts the position of the Chinese in Eastern Turkishtan would appear to be far less favourable than they make out themselves.

It is stated that on their first establishing themselves at Kashgar the Chinese prohibited all ingress and egress from the country, but after some months, becoming alarmed at the large number of foreigners in the chief towns, they caused a census to be taken of these and finding that there were some 10,000 Badekhshis Cabulis &c. and some 7000, Cashmeries, Baltis, Indians &c. they determined to rid themselves of as many as possible and accordingly issued orders that any trader who pleased might leave the country with his caravan but they at the same time, allowed a rumour to gain circulation that none except *native* traders would be permitted to return. A considerable number at once availed themselves of the opportunity and started from Yarkund about the 4th and 5th August.

On their arrival at Sanju the officials of that place sent orders, of their own accord, to the Kirghiz at Tahn Langar [Tahm or Tam] to release the joint Commissioners messenger and to allow him to proceed with the caravans to Ladakh. At the same time orders were sent from Yarkund to Kilian where several traders had lately arrived from Ladakh, that no body was to be allowed to enter the country, consequently these last are now on their way back to Ladakh.

The condition of Eastern Turkistan is described as very unsettled. The Chinese have comparatively few troops; these are badly armed and no reinforcements have arrived since they first entered the country. They came because they were invited, not by virtue of conquest as they were scarcely required to fire a shot; * they remain by force of their old name and prestige, but they could be crushed and turned out of the country to-morrow if the natives had ready a ruler to set up in their place. There is no one however thought to be fit for the post except Turras and Andijanis and of these the people will have none.

The number of troops at Kashgar is estimated at 4,000, at Aksu 3000, at Yarkand and Kuchamach 1000, and at Khotan and some smaller towns each 200, or 300. The men are armed chiefly with spears; but few have muskets or rifles, and there are no guns except those formerly belonging to the Amir and which were found in store at Kashgar. On the Russian frontier, there are no Chinese troops, the native Kirghiz being employed to watch the roads and passes; and this in spite of expectations of a war with Russia in Ili. The roads to Ladakh also are guarded entirely by local Kirghiz.

The chief ruler of the country is Niaz Hakim Beg, late Hakim of Khotan who resides almost exclusively at Yarkand Through him the Chinese ambans carry on the whole of the administration. But the one great object of their administration is, in the opinion of the Yarkandis, to extort money from all classes of the people.

Bribes are required on every trifling occasion and these are shared by Niaz Beg and the Ambans. Of bloodshed there has been but little except at Kashgar where some two hundred Sunganis were executed during the winter; at Yarkund about forty persons were either executed or tortured and at Khotan about thirty persons. In spite of this comparative leniency, the discontent caused by extortion, restrictions on trade and personal liberty, and the destruction of mosques is great, and plans for rising against the Chinese and displacing Niaz Beg are being matured in all the large towns. Whether these will be carried out or not, depends entirely on whether the Chinese receive reinforcements from the East. If no reinforcements arrive within a month or six weeks it was thought that a rising will certainly take place, and the Chinese soldiery will become easy victims to the Mussulman population, for not only are the former few and divided into detachments, but the army in their rear is threatened by Tunganis and Taranchis if not by the Russians, and they are dispirited and alarmed at not receiving the reinforcements they expected. In view of this contingency many Chinese have made preparations for their escape eastwards and Niaz Hakim has concluded arrangements with the people of Kngiar and with the Kirghiz behind that place to assist him in flying to Ladakh whenever it may be necessary.

The fear on the part of the Chinese is shown, moreover, by their constantly moving the troops and officials from one place to another, and in this desire to collect all the horses from country and to mount the whole of their men, circumstances which the Yarkandis regard as indications of a readiness to take flight at a moments notice.

* Bargen-hu is a Chinese Mussulman and was the leader of the Dungan rebellion which broke out in Shense and Kansuh. During the last five years he has gradually been driven westwards through Urumtsi, Turfan, and Chinese Turkestan.

* It is stated that a Pansad Bushi named Manur, with orders from the Amir attacked the Chinese at Akon and near Kashgar during their first advance into the country, with about 500 men-he was beaten however on both occasions and took to flight, but eventually fell into the hands of the Chinese and was executed.

Correspondence

NOTES FROM MYSORE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT

We are having a fine weather again after the rain and everything is looking blooming. I think we have not done with the monsoon, and the fine weather that we are having must only be looked upon as a breaker. The crops continue to look splendidly, and a bumper harvest is looked for. The people of the country say that they have not seen anything like what is now growing for the last twenty years. After the next harvest has been reaped we may look upon the famine as having been to an end. There are at present a good number of stragglers about, though I fancy that some of them prefer being fed for nothing to working. They are caught if they are found straying, and taken to the camp but they manage to escape, and return to their old game. It is painful to see that the famine has demoralised a large number of people in the province and it will be a long time before they restore themselves.

The Calico Ball came off on the 9th instant, and was a decided success. Not only so, but many thought it was the best they had seen in India. As I did not see the Volunteer Fancy Ball that was lately got up in Bombay I am unable to say which was the best. There were some capital costumes, and not only good in themselves, but which suited those who assumed them. This is the great point in a fancy ball. For instance, it would not be well for a lady of good proportions to dress up like a fairy, or for a man with a figure resembling that of the Tichbourne claimant to dress up like a boy. It struck me that there were too many Spanish ladies, and I think I can give the reason for this. It is generally believed that these ladies are very beautiful, and that their national costumes sets off their charms, and so those who put on this costume think that they will also come in for a portion of the charms that they so much admire. All the characters in the "Darm Darden Quadrille" were represented, and right well, those who assumed them went through their parts. When the ball began there was a muster of all the characters, and they filed round before dancing began These costumes were much admired, a gentleman represented a graduate of the east, and his wife a graduate of the west. A young lady who represented Edith Plantagenet was also very much admired. The Bangalore bobby the most worthless creature in existence—was well represented. But still there were very few eastern characters, and this I think was a pity. The few that were, represented came far short of the stately characters of a bygone age, Dancing, was kept up till about four o'clock in the morning and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

There are a good many complaints going about of the way in which some of the old subordinates of Government are being treated. They are sent away without any ceremony, I will give an instance. There was an Assistant Commissioner upon the province who had served twenty-seven years when he was called in to pass an examination. He had during the time he had been in service done good work, and had been highly spoken of by the officers under whom he had served. In two or three cases he had highly distinguished himself. Well, after serving all those years he was told that he must pass an examination, and a threat was held out that if he did not present himself he would have to retire from the service. He went up and gave his answers in Canarese, and though many candidates had been allowed to do this his papers in the revenue branch were rejected. He is not what may be called an English scholar; schools were not so plentiful when he was young as they are now, and he had no opportunity of proceeding far in the language. He can speak it, and also write it, though he does not do the latter very well, and he has been accustomed to carry on his work in the vernacular of the country and it would have been only fair to have allowed him to have given in his papers in the same language. Of course, the Government was down on him for not passing, and no explanation that he gave was taken notice of. He was told to go up again, but he knew that if he did he would receive the same treatment as on the former occasion, and so he declined to put in an appearance in the examination room, I think he was right. Besides this, he was sick at the time the examination took place, and sent in a certificate to that effect. But all to no effect; he was told that he must either pass the test or be suspended, and so he preferred the latter, and suspended he has been. Now this, in my opinion, is a very hard case; surely the man might have been allowed to finish his career in the service without being called upon to undergo a test that requires a better memory than a man generally possesses after he has been nearly thirty years hard at work. I think it is a case which the Government of India might well look into, and see that matters were not carried too far.

You may know that Bangalore possesses a rink, but at the present time very few skaters in it. At first going off it was splendidly attended, crowded in fact. The concern reminded me of Disraeli's first speech—it went up like a rocket and came down like a stick. Now, however, it is nearly deserted, although all sorts of things have been tried to bring the people back again, and the latest is the following. The notice was sent to my house a few days ago;—"A band from the Royal Artillery will play at the Bangalore Skating Rink in the inner portion, from 5 P. M., till 10 P. M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays—Middle classes at 8 P. M.," Now what do you think of that? In my opinion it is about as pretty a bit of snobbishness as I have met with for a long time past, The proprietor is anxious to secure the big wigs of the station, and therefore the notice, but he will find to his cost that the people from the middle classes who up to this time have been in the habit of going will stay away, and not a member from the class that he wishes to draw will come near the place.

Cook and Stanley come in this evening, but you have had so much of them of late that you must be quite tired of hearing their names mentioned.

A CORRESPONDENT.

Bangalore, the 16th October, 1878.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*October* 23, 1878.

GENERAL.—Moulvi Rnmeezoodeen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in temporary charge of the Aurungabad division of the Gya district is transferred to the Sudder Station of that district, with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment at the Sudder Station.

Baboo Behary Lall Mookerjee B.A., is appointed to act temporarily as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, and is posted to Naitore, in Rajshahye, *vice* Baboo Sita Nath Mookerjee, deputed to license tax duty.

Mr. W. H, Page, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Jessore is appointed to act, until further orders, in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, *vice* Mr. C. C. Quinn.

Baboo Uma Churn Gangooly, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Basirhat, 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to have charge of the Satkhira division of that district.

Baboo Jadub Chunder Gossami, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Satkhira, 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to have charge of the Basirhat division of that district.

Mr. J. T. Jarbo, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Chittagong district.

Mr. G. E Forter, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the Sudder Station of the Patna district.

Mr. C. B. Garret, District and Sessions Judge, Dacca, is appointed to be district and Sessions Judge of Noakholly.

Mr. F. H. McLaughlin, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to Noakhally, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating District and Sessions Judge of that district.

Mr. P. D. Dickens, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Nuddea, is appointed to be District and Sessions Judge of Dacca.

Mr. L. R. Tottenham is appointed to be District and Sessions Judge of Nuddea, but will continue to be employed under the Government of India in the Home Department until further orders

Mr. T. E. Vaughan, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Moorshedabad, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Backergunge district,

Mr. H. Cox, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Mozufferpore, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Pooree district.

Moulvi Abdool Luteef, Khan Bahadoor, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Sealdah, 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for two months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date as he may be relieved.

Mr. W. D. Blyth, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is posted temporarily to Sealdah.

Mr. S. S. Jones, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, Hazareebagh, is transferred to the Southal Pergunnahs, and is appointed to have charge of the Rajmehal division of that district.

Mr. C. M. W. Brett, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Serajgunge, Pubna, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Hazarebagh district,

Mr. A. H. Haggard, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is posted to Pubna, and is appointed to have charge of the Serajgunge division of that district.

Baboo Ram Churn Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bagirhat, Jessore, is allowed leave for two and a half months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Baboo Hurry Mohun Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Ghatal, Midnapore, is allowed leave for two months under Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Baboo til money Coomar, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Depuy Collector, Rungpore, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Burdwan district,

Baboo Hurry Churn Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Banka, Bhagulpore, is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Baboo Abinash Churn Mullick, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chumparun, is transferred to the Bhagulpore division

Baboo Kristo Chunder Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, on leave, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Chittagong district

Mr. R. T. Sevestre, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is appointed to have temporary charge of the Jehanabad division of that district.

Baboo Mohesh Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in temporary charge of the Aurungabad division of the Gya district, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Backergunge district.

Baboo Kedar Nath Dutt, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan Division, is posted to Bankoora.

Mr. R. C. Dutt, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Tipperah, is transferred to Burdwan, and is appointed to have charge of the Cutwa division of that district.

Baboo Mohendra Nath Bhattacharjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bankoora, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Advertisements.

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	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	
1st ...	0 3 2	0 0 2	0 6 5	0 9 9	
2nd ...	0 6 5	0 0 2	0 12 5	1 3 0	If over 200
3rd	0 9 7	0 0 2	1 2 4	1 12 1	maunds.
Tea ...	0 6 6	0 0 2	1 2 0	1 8 8	If under
Do. ...	0 9 7	0 0 2	1 2 0	1 11 9	200 mds.

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For further particulars see published classification of goods.

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Report by the Directors
PRESENTED TO THE
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The Directors submit the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December last :—

Life Business.

During the year 1877 there have been issued 1026 Policies, assuring £1,003.580, the new Premiums on which amount to £32,049 : 10 : 5.

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As will be seen from the State of Affairs annexed, the Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,711,876:11:7, being £105,446 : 17 : 10 above what it was on 31st December 1876. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

After paying the Dividend, the Reserve Fund will amount to £794,576 : 19 : 11, and the Premium Reserve to £302,671, 8s. 5d., together amounting to £1,017,248 : 8 : 4. At 31st December 1876 these Funds amounted to £1,082,768 : 11 : 10, showing an increase this year of £14,479 : 16 : 6.

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